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# HISTORICAL SKETCHES

OF THE

# TOWN OF MILFORD

[LIMITED EDITION]

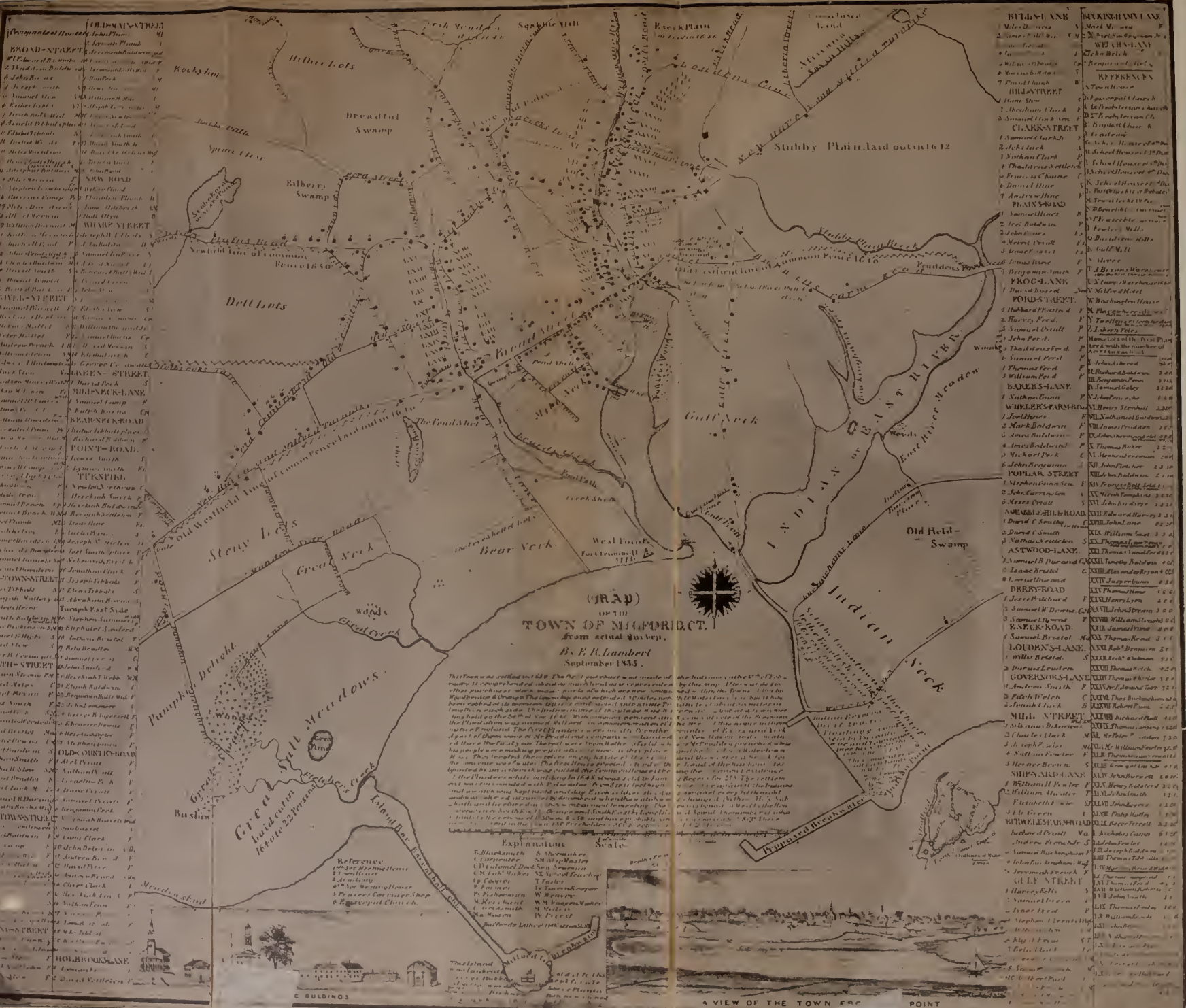
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"A MORE SUBSTANTIAL COMPANY OF EMIGRANTS NEVER FOLLOWED  
A CLERGYMAN INTO THE WILD WOODS OF AMERICA THAN THE  
FATHERS OF MILFORD."—(*Hollister's History of Conn.*)

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PRESS OF THE TUTTLE, MOREHOUSE AND TAYLOR CO.  
NEW HAVEN, CONN.  
1914.





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N. E. G.

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BY  
GEORGE HARE FORD

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AUG 22 1914

## PREFACE

Partially inspired by the recent tracing of the road over which Washington passed through this town on June 28th, 1775, journeying from Philadelphia to Cambridge to take "command of the Army of the United Colonies"; and in anticipation of the proposed celebration of the

### 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SETTLEMENT OF YE OLD TOWNE OF MILFORD,

I have compiled and edited this book out of loyalty to and interest in my native town.

It contains facts, incidents and data gleaned from original manuscripts (not heretofore published or assembled), pamphlets, records and fragments of authority now rare and difficult of access, which, if not preserved, will fade away and be lost to future generations.

Trusting that it may prove as interesting to others as the collecting and compiling has been to the author.

GEORGE HARE FORD

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

Dedicated to the memory of my twenty-five ancestors\* whose names appear upon the Memorial Bridge among the founders of the town.

\* Thomas Ford, Serg't. Thomas Tibbals, Rev. Peter Prudden, Gov. Robert Treat, William Fowler, Rev. Sam'l. Andrew, Deacon George Clarke, Yoeman George Clarke, Jasper Gunn, Edmund Tapp, Benjamin Fenn, Thomas Buckingham, Richard Baldwin, Timothy Baldwin, Joseph Baldwin, Nathaniel Baldwin, John Rogers, Nicholas Camp, Joseph Northrup, Henry Bochford, John Lane, John Smith, Thomas Sanford, Roger Terrill, Martha Beard "Widow" three sons.

The writer acknowledges with appreciation and thanks courtesies and assistance rendered in the preparation of this work by the following: Harvey Beach, David L. Clark, David Lewis Nettleton, Nathan Stowe, George F. Platt, Roger S. Baldwin, Treat Clark, Joseph R. Clark, Frank T. Munson, Rev. P. H. McClean, Rev. A. J. Martin, Fannie Fowler Peck, Josephine G. Beach, Sarah T. Ford, Sadie Ford Nettleton. E. B. Hyatt, Photographer.



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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES

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### NEW HAVEN COLONY

**1637** In June, 1637, there arrived at Boston, the Davenport and Eaton Company, composed of men of "wealth and highest respectability." Among them were two Puritan ministers, John Davenport and Peter Prudden. Efforts were made by Governor Winthrop to induce these new comers to locate within the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Colony; but they desired to form a separate commonwealth.

When Captain Underhill of the Winthrop Colony returned from the Pequot War, he told of a place called "Quinnipiack," discovered in chasing the Pequot Indians to the westward along the coast from Mystic to the Fairfield Swamp. He described the place as follows: "It hath a fair harbor and abounds in rich and goodly meadows."

**1638** Captain Stoughton, another soldier of the Pequot War, speaks of the place as "surpassing all the New England region," and says "probable it is that the Dutch will seize it if the English do not; it is too good for any but friends." A committee were sent to explore the country and the harbor and returned so well pleased that the Davenport and Eaton Company decided to settle on this spot and in the spring of 1638 arrived at Red Mount (Quinnipiack), now New Haven.

Dwight says about this company, "They were distinguished for their excellent characters"; and Trumbull says, "the principal men deserved to be at the head of a colony."

Peters, a sarcastic writer, in his "History of Connecticut, London 1781," says "The New Haven Colony flattered themselves they were founding Christ's Millenium Kingdom, which was to extend from sea to sea, and that their city would be the seat of the empire and that Christ would eventually come to live with them for a thousand years; but it does not appear

from the early records that they ever reserved a building lot for his palace."

### PLANTATION COVENANT

1639 June, 1639, finds these planters gathered for conference in the Robert Newman barn\* for the purpose of an agreement on the government of the colony. The meeting was not altogether harmonious: differences existed. The majority favored recognizing only church members as eligible to vote on the affairs of the colony. As a result those who declined to subscribe to the original articles of agreement gathered on the following day and organized under Rev. Peter Prudden, a separate colony.

Prudden, formerly from Edgerton, Yorkshire, England, had preached at Wethersfield during the year; and a number from that town followed him to Quinnipiack.

Among them was Sergt. Thomas Tibbals† who had also served with Capt. Mason, Stoughton and Underhill in the Pequot War.

He had been impressed not only with the Quinnipiack but the Wepawaug‡ River, about ten miles south and recommended this location to the Company of dissenters as a desirable spot for a settlement; and the following August, Thomas Tibbals led the company along the shore by the Indian trail through the wilderness to the banks of the Wepawaug, with the Rev. Peter Prudden as the acknowledged head of the Company.

\* The Newman lot was at the foot of the present Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, on which site now stands the New Haven Colony Historical Society Building presented by Henry Fowler English as a memorial to his father and mother: the late James Edward English, Governor and U. S. Senator, and Caroline Fowler English, a direct descendant of William Fowler of Milford, the founder and builder of the first mill.

† Among the passengers on the "Truelove," leaving the shores of England in 1635, appear the names of Thomas Tibbalds, aged 20; Zacharia Whitman, aged 60; Sarah Whitman, aged 25; Zacha Whitman, aged 2½ years. "Original lists of Persons of Quality who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations 1600-1700," Edited by John Camden Hotten, London.

‡ Indian translation (the crossing place).

See boulder Memorial Bridge, southeast end, following inscription:

IN MEMORIAM  
CAPT. THOMAS TIBBALS.  
OBIT 1703  
IN CONSIDERATION OF HIS  
HELPLESSNESS AT THE FIRST COM-  
ING TO MILFORD TO SHOW THE  
FIRST COMMERS THE PLACE.  
(Land Records.)

See boulder Memorial Bridge, southwest end, following inscription:

IN MEMORIAM  
PETER PRUDDEN  
FIRST PASTOR IN MILFORD  
OBIT 1656  
THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE  
WILDERNESS, PREPARE YE  
THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.

## THE NEW HAVEN COLONISTS ACQUIRED ALL THEIR LAND BY PURCHASE FROM THE INDIANS,

and the business was transacted with much formality and possession was given with ceremony. Not only the Indian Chief, but all the other leaders in the tribe signed the deeds by making their mark.

The payments were made in clothing, blankets, utensils, trinkets and other things useful to the Indians.

By articles of agreement the Indians, for themselves and their successors, surrendered all lands and privileges, reserving the right of fishing and hunting, and in the case of the Milford purchase, Ansantawae and his family were to have the liberty to seek shelter in the event of danger in some place near the town where the residents should "think most fit."

LAND PURCHASED FOR THE TOWN OF MILFORD  
FROM THE INDIANS INCLUDING DATE OF  
PURCHASE AND BOUNDARY LINE\*

The individuals who negotiated with the Indians acted in behalf of all the planters, and it is expressed in all of the various deeds or agreements, from 1639 to 1722, after the names of the committee, as follows: "For the benefit of the planters," or "In trust for the planters."

**1639** The original or first purchase was made Feb. 12, 1639,<sup>†</sup> and consisted of the land lying between the East River and the "Oustonik" with Long Island Sound on the south, two miles towards Derby on the north. This deed was taken by William Fowler, Edwin Tapp, Zachariah Whitman, Benjamin Fenn and Alexander Bryan.

**1655** Purchases were made between Paugussett and the two-mile Indian path by Ensign Bryan, Sergt. Baldwin and William East.

**1659** Land from the Indian Path to Oyster River South to the Foot Path from Paugussett to New Haven, by Robert Treat and Ensign Bryan.

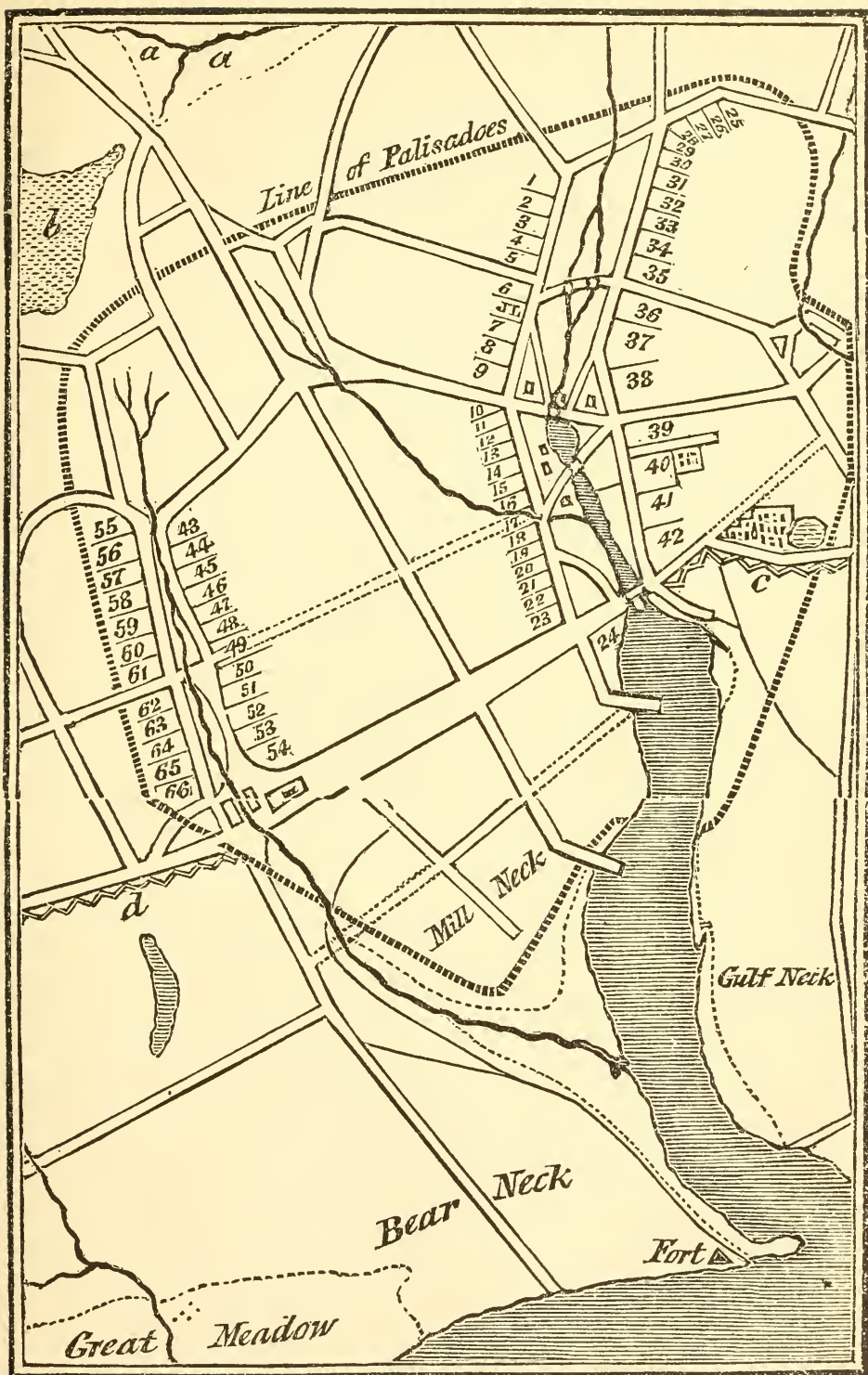
**1659-60** Indian Neck between East River and the Sound by Ensign Bryan.

**1685** "The tract lying by the path which goeth from New Haven to Derby and bounded with said path south, and the brook called Bladden's Brook, north; with the line that is in the point between New Haven and Milford east, and the line that is the point between Derby and Milford West." This purchase was made by Robert Treat, Samuel Eells, Benj. Fenn, Thomas Clark and Survanus Baldwin.

\* The conditions of purchase, the price, the names and marks of the Indians conveying all the land comprising the town of Milford at the different purchases will be found in Lambert's History of New Haven Colony, 1838.

† The early settlers began their year March 25, therefore a confusion and inconsistency of dates frequently occurs and is due to the fact that the original records made previous to March may bear date of previous year. 1640 voted the place be called Milford.





PLAN OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN PLOT OF MLFORD.

1646

Four and one-half inches to the mile

NUMBER OF HOUSE LOT, NAME AND AMOUNT OF LAND  
OWNED BY EACH PLANTER IN 1646

	a.	r.	p.			
1 John Astwood,	7	2	0	34 Thomas Wheeler,	3	0 0
2 Richard Baldwin,	3	0	0	35 Mr. Edmond Tapp,	7	2 0
3 Benjamin Fenn,	2	11	3	36 Tho. Buckingham,	2	3 0
4 Samuel Cooley,	2	1	20	37 Robert Plum-	5	3 0
5 John Peacocke,	1	3	0	38 Richard Platt,	4	1 0
6 Henry Stonhill,	2	3	20	39 Thomas Tapping,	1	1 20
7 Nathaniel Baldwin,	3	2	0	40 Mr. Peter Prudden,	7	2 0
8 James Prudden,	2	0	0	41 Mr. Wm. Fowler,	7	2 0
9 John Sherman,	4	0	0	42 Thomas Lawrence,	1	0 0
10 Thomas Baker,	3	2	0	43 George Clark, Junr.,	4	1 0
11 Stephen Freeman,	2	0	0	44 John Burwell,	2	0 20
12 John Fletcher,	2	3	30	45 Henry Botsford,	2	2 0
13 John Baldwin,	2	1	10	46 John Smith,	1	3 20
14 Frances Bolt,	2	1	20	47 John Rogers,	1	3 20
15 Micah Tompkins,	2	1	20	48 Philip Hatley,	3	3 20
16 John Birdseye,	2	3	20	49 Roger Tyrrell,	2	3 20
17 Edward Harvey,	2	3	0	50 Nicholas Camp,	6	1 20
18 John Lane,	2	2	20	51 John Fowler,	1	2 20
19 William East,	2	3	0	52 Joseph Baldwin,	2	1 20
20 Thomas Lawrence,	2	0	0	53 Thomas Tibbals,	1	2 20
(sold to Wm. East.)				54 Wid. Martha Beard,	4	1 00
21 Thomas Sandford,	2	3	0	55 Thomas Campfield,	3	0 0
22 Timothy Baldwin,	4	0	0	56 Thomas Ford,	3	0 0
23 Alexander Bryan,	4	0	25	57 William Roberts,	3	0 0
24 Jasper Gunn,	0	3	0	58 John Smith,	4	0 0
25 Tomas Hine,	3	0	0	59 Thomas Bailey,	3	0 0
26 Henry Lyon,	3	0	0	60 William Brookes,	3	0 0
27 John Stream,	3	0	0	61 John Brown,	3	0 0
28 William Slough,	3	0	0	62 Nathaniel Briscoe,	3	0 0
29 James Prime,	3	0	0	63 Edward Riggs,	3	0 0
30 Thomas Reed,	3	0	0	64 Andrew Benton,	3	0 0
31 Robert Denison,	3	0	0	65 George Clark, Senr.,	4	2 0
32 Zachariah Whitman,	7	2	0	66 George Hubbard,	4	2 0
33 Thomas Welch,	4	2	0	(sold to John Stream.)		

The following list included those who were known to have come from Wethersfield:—Zackariah Whitman, Thomas Welch, Edmund Tapp, Thomas Buckingham, Richard Miles, Richard Platt, Mr. Peter Prudden, William Fowler, Richard Baldwin, Benjamin Fenn, John Peacocke, Henry Stonhill, Nathaniel Baldwin, James Prudden, Timothy Baldwin, Joseph Baldwin, Thomas Tibbals.

**1700** Land lying north of Bladden's Brook to the brook called Lebanon Brook, east by New Haven land; west by the land between Derby and Milford; by Robert Treat, Thomas Clark, Sr., Samuel Buckingham, Lieut. S. Baldwin and Ensign George Clark.

**1702** Land bounded south by Lebanon Brook; east by Milford and New Haven line; north by Beacon Hill or Waterbury line; west by the line between Derby and Milford.

The following is a list of the principal after planters, 1646 to about 1660:

Henry Allen	Stephen Freeman	John Prindle
Edward Adams	John Fisk	Joseph Peck
Joshua Atwater	Nathaniel Gould	Roger Pritchard
Joseph Ashburn	Joseph Guernsey	David Phillips
Hants Albers	Thomas Hine	Edward Riggs
Thomas Andrew	Richard Haughton	William Roberts
Thomas Bayley	Thomas Hayes	Thomas Read
Thomas Beardsley	Richard Holbrook	Joseph Sill
John Brown	Richard Hollingworth	Richard Shute
Roger Betts	Walter Joye	John Smith
Thomas Betts	Simon Lobdell	John Stream
Thomas Beach	Jonathan Law	John Stone
Thomas Campfield	Jesse Lambert	Vincent Stilson
Robert Denison	Miles Merwin	Peter Simpson
Gilbert Dalison	Miles Moore	Edward Turner
Charles Deal	Jonathan Marsh	Henry Tomlinson
Robert Downs	Thomas Mecock	William Tyler
Samuel Eells	Samuel Nettleton	Edward Wooster
Thomas Farman	Roger Newton	Edward Wilkinson
Nathaniel Farrand	Francis Norton	Thomas Ward
John Ford	Abraham Pierson	Joseph Waters
Joseph Northrup	James Prime	

Purchases having been made at various times and boundaries being subject to controversy, the planters decided in 1712-or 13 to petition the General Court for a Patent that would define their boundaries and protect their title and the following were chosen a committee to assume the drawing up of the document:—Jonathan Law, Esq.,\* Maj. Samuel Eells, Sergt. Zachariah Baldwin, Ensign Samuel Gunn, Capt. Joseph Treat, Ensign George Clark and Mr. Samuel Clark, Jr.

Every planter was compelled to bear his proportion of the expense arising from settling the plantation and laying it out in lots and received land in proportion to the amount he had contributed based upon his estate, the number of members of his family and agreed to build a suitable house upon the lot within three years from the date of allotment.

\* The instrument was drawn for the committee by Jonathan Law.

These early houses were mostly covered with oak shingles and the windows were diamond glass.

The outside lands were allotted in the same manner as the home lots.\*

Burwell's Farm received its name from Samuel and Nathan, sons of Samuel Burwell.

Wheeler's Farm received its name from Joseph Wheeler who settled in 1705; previous to this it was called the Upper Meadow or Sergeant Camp's Hop Garden.

Bryan's Farm received its name from Alexander Bryan. The section is now known as Woodmont.

George Clark† was the first settler to build outside the Palisades and received forty acres as a reward for his courage.

Inscription on Stone erected on Clark Farm  
October 1895

This stone was  
removed from the south  
end of this field by  
David N. Clarke & Sons  
and set up in memory of  
Deacon George Clarke, Sr.  
their ancestor who was  
one of the first English  
settlers of Milford in 1639,  
and was the owner of this lot  
with George Clarke, Jr.

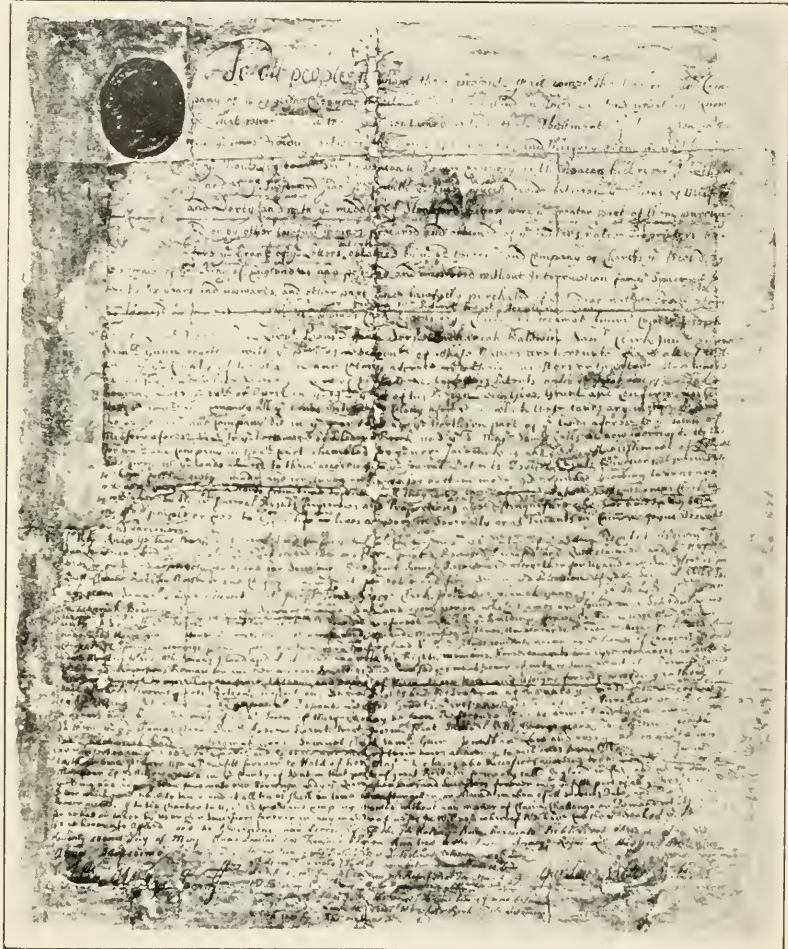
\* Westfield, south of the town, between the turnpike and the great meadow extending to Poconoc Point, was laid out to those who settled at the west end. The Upland at the point was laid out to widow Martha Beard. In 1647, Thomas Tibbals had a grant of meadow at said point.

† As there were two men by the name of George Clarke among the early settlers, many errors occur in the records of their descendants. Pond, in his "Story of the Memorial Bridge," considers the present family descend from Deacon, who married Mary, the daughter of George the farmer. The name of Clarke from the settlement of the town has been most prominent. The descendants have been thrifty and have been most loyal to the interests of the town of Milford, having remained in the town generation after generation and added much to its prosperity. Clark and Clarke are the most prominent names in the Milford telephone directory of the present day.





PATENT GRANTED 1712-13  
(from original)



This patent was considered of much importance to the freeholders as security against any crown agent or Governor General who might challenge their title.



### NAMES OF PATENTEES

The Schedule of names annexed to the Patent of Missen.  
(The original schedule was too badly torn and stained to be exhibited)

The Patient is on the handwriting of Jonathan L. Esq. afterwards becomes

[illegible]

The Dist. Court reported and submitted same. . . . July 1886  
by James A. Lambart

Trumbull says, "The wisdom of our venerable ancestors provided for the freedom and liberty of themselves and their posterity. Thus did they guard against every encroachment on the rights of the subjects."



The following is an accurate synopsis of the instrument :

L. S. TO ALL PEOPLE to whom these presents shall come: The Governour and Company of ye English Colony of Connecticut, in New England, in America, send Greeting. Know YE that whereas all the lands contained within these abutments; viz., the Sea South, with the dividing lines between the towns of New Haven and Milford, from the middle of the mouth of Oyster river to Beacon Hill river, Easterly; with Beacon Hill river, Northerly; and on the Westward side thereof with the lines which divide between the Towns of Milford and Derby, and with the middle of the Housatonnuc river, were the greater part purchased of the Indian, native proprietors, before the Letters Patent of Connecticut was obtained from King Charles the 2d, of blessed memory, and possessed without interruption for seventy-six years and upwards; and that other parts since lawfully purchased of the Indian proprietors, by the inhabitants of Milford, viz.: the lands north of Bladen's brook were added to the township, in 1693, by the Governour and Company since the grant of the Charter of Connecticut—and the proprietors of said Milford now moving to us the Governour and Company, for the more sure making and firm establishment of their rights to said lands, whether holden by them in Fee simple or Fee tail, or as Tenants in common, joint Tenants or Parceners;

Now Know YE: That we the said Governour and Company in General Court assembled, by virtue of the LETTERS PATENT to us given, *under the great seal of England*, by our Sovereign Lord, King Charles the second, of blessed memory, do by these presents fully and absolutely, for us and our successors, give, grant, remise, and release, and altogether for us and our successors do quit claim, ratify, approve, and confirm in the quiet, peaceable, and firm seizen and possession of Major Samuel Eells, Mr. Samuel Andrew, Mr. Robert Treat, Mr. Jonathan Law, Mr. Thomas Clark, Ensign George Clark, Ensign Jobamah Gunn, Capt. Joseph Treat, Lieut. Joseph Peck, Lieut. Benjamin Fenn, Serg. Zachariah Baldwin, Mr. Samuel Clark, Jun., Ensign Samuel Gunn, and all and every person whose names are found in a schedule hereunto affixed, the whole right, title, and claim, which we have had or have in and to all the aforesaid tract of land bounded as aforesaid, with all the Islands within the said tract of land, viz.: Milford Island, Edward Wooster's Island, Whitman's Island, and Duck Island, with the woods, minerals, buildings, and all other appurtenances, and hereditament; to them and every of them, their heirs and assigns forever, according to their several rights and shares, as may be seen by the records of the town of Milford, reference thereunto being had, To HAVE and To HOLD to their own proper use and behoof forever; To HOLD—*of her Majesty*, her heirs and successors, according to the tenure of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, in England, in free and common socage, yielding and paying therefor to her Majesty and successors forever, the fifth part of all the ore of Gold and Silver, which shall there, hereafter be gotten, in lieu of all services, duties, and demands whatsoever, according to the Charter granted to us, the Governour and Company.

In witness whereof we have caused the Seal of the Colony to be hereunto affixed, and the Governor and Secretary of the said Colony have hereunto subscribed their names, this twenty-second day of May, Anno Domini One Thousand seven hundred and thirteen—  
Anno-qr Regui Regina Magna Britannia Anna Duo decimo.

*Gurdon Saltonstall.*

*Abner Wythes Loery*

## MILFORD INDIANS\*

As late as the spring of 1831 it is said that a company of Indians journeyed from the shores of Lake Champlain and camped for two or three weeks at Milford Point. An old man of eighty was recognized by them as their chieftain.

Conversation among themselves was carried on in the Indian tongue. Some had acquired a little English and as they expressed it, "they made this pilgrimage for the last time to the home of their ancestors and the sacred ground of their fathers."

If this barbaric, savage race had that reverence for their ancestors and the homes of their fathers, should not we of a civilized race, at the present day, show reverence for and pay homage to the homes of our ancestors by gathering at intervals and studying their characters and rehearsing the experiences of these founders of a great nation.

The Quinnipiack tribe claimed the territory from New Haven to Madison. The Wepawaugs and Paugussetts from New Haven to Fairfield, extending back to Beacon Hill (Beacon Falls, Waterbury Line). The Wepawaugs† occupied the east bank of the Ousatonick River and the Paugussetts, the west bank. They numbered several hundred warriors and braves and historians all assume that they were all one people. Ansantawae‡ was the sachem of both tribes and all the deeds in their territory conveyed to the English included the names or marks of the heads of both families.

DeForest says, "The Quinnipiacks numbered only forty-seven braves and warriors."

\* About 1648 the Mohawks, as was frequently their custom, swept down along the coast and attacked the Milford Indians, near a swamp about a mile east of the Ferry. The Mohawks were defeated.

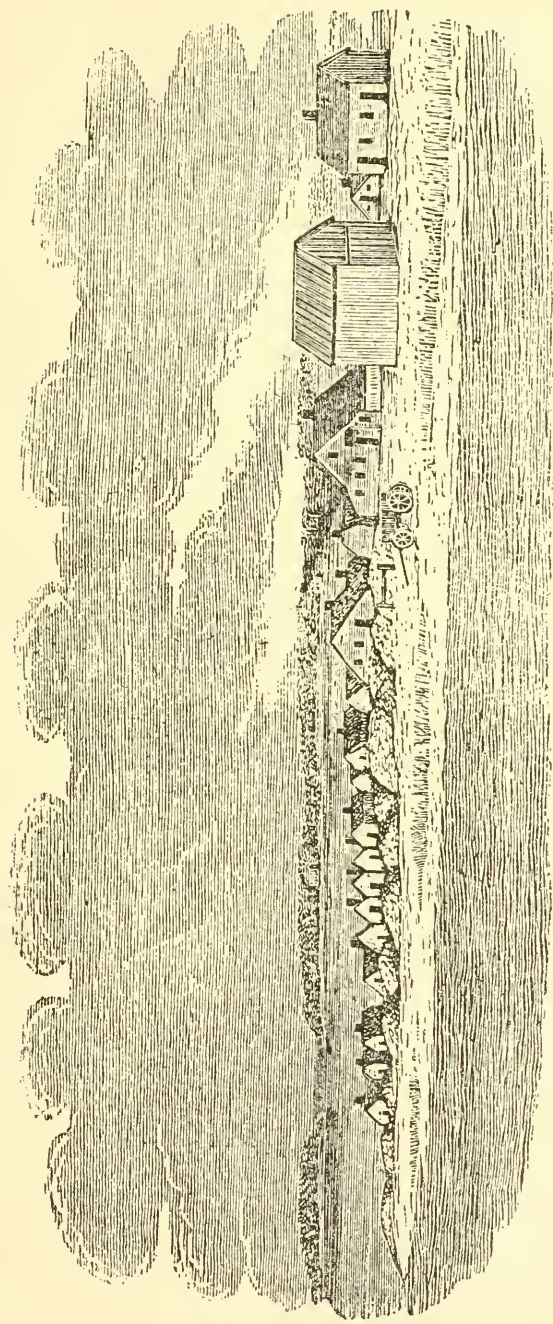
† Wopowage Housatonick—Trumbull's Conn., 1797.

Wapawaug Ousatonick—Gazeteer of Conn. & R. I., 1818.

Wepowage Housatonnuc—Lambert's, 1838.

Wepawaug Paugussetts—DeForest's History of Conn. Indians, 1852.

‡ Ansantawae had a wigwam on the banks of the Wepawaug about opposite Plot 19 on the map.



**EAST VIEW OF THE OYSTER ESTABLISHMENT, ON POCONOC POINT, MILFORD,**  
 (Copied and enlarged from Lamberti, 1838.)

DeForest's "Indians of Connecticut" says "large heaps of shells found along the coast show what must have been the natives' favorite and principal food; but do not necessarily prove that there was as large a population as it would indicate, for the shells were probably the accumulation of centuries by some race that came and disappeared before the foot of a Paugussett or Wepawaug left its print on these shores."

In consequence of the erection of factories along the banks of the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers, the fishing and oyster industry at this point has been destroyed.



1777 At the time of the settlement of the town of Milford the Indians had four so-called villages within the limits of the town; one on the banks of the Wepawaug near the First Church, one on the banks of the Ousatonick; one at Washington's bridge; one at Peconic or Milford Point and one at Turkey Hill. After a time they complained that having sold their land, they had no place to live and asked the town to assign them some portion where they might live and fish and hunt. Accordingly in 1777 one hundred acres at Turkey Hill were reserved and Capt. Benjamin Fenn, Steven Gunn, Esq., and Lieut. Benjamin Fenn were appointed to take care of this land.

Mollie Hackett, the last of the Wepawaug tribe, died here between 1780 and 1800.

### MILFORD ISLANDS

1712-13 Milford Islands were evidently considered of importance as they are distinctly mentioned in the 1712-13 patent.

1657 Milford, or Charles Island,\* the most important, contains twelve acres and is beautifully located. The Indian name was "Eaquahaug"; it was a favorite summer resort of the Indians. Ansantawae the sachem had a royal wigwam or summer home, on this Island. In the settlement of the town it was laid out to George Hubbard who sold it to Richard Bryan. In 1657 grant was given to Charles Deal (from whom it evidently acquired its present name) to use the island for a tobacco plantation on condition that buildings should not be used for any other purpose and he was not to trade with the Dutch or Indians.

\* Connected with the island is a legend that the notorious Kidd buried money on the south side beside a huge rock and that some persons digging for this treasure succeeded in getting as far as the iron box and looking in the air saw a man descending without a head. They became frightened and ran away and as they left they saw the space enveloped in smoke. Returning for their spades the next day they found they were mistaken and the ground was smooth as though it never had been dug. This and the Hog rock legend probably deserve the same credit as that concerning the New Haven phantom ship.



**1825** In 1825 the island was sold to John Harris of New York, who erected upon it an imposing residence. That was afterwards utilized as a summer hotel and in the early days of the writer, excursion steamers ran from New Haven and Bridgeport to this island during the summer season. The spot is highly attractive at the present day and will undoubtedly, in the future, be acquired by some one impressed with the advantage of its situation and possibly be developed as a yachting rendezvous.

DUCK ISLAND near the mouth of the Housatonic River.

NELL'S ISLAND between that and Washington Bridge.

WOOSTER ISLAND opposite Wheeler's Farm.

## FORT TRUMBULL

**1776** In 1776 Fort Trumbull was built for the defense of the town. Earth works were built on the West side on the entrance of the Harbor and a military post was established. Great guns were mounted, ready for use if necessary in defense and Captain Isaac Miles was placed in command. The fort was named "Fort Trumbull," undoubtedly in honor of Jonathan Trumbull (Brother Jonathan) the war governor of the State of Connecticut during the Revolutionary period.

## ROADS

**1846** By reference to the original map, 1846, it will be observed that no effort was made to lay out the town regularly as was done by the planters in New Haven.

It is said that a cart driven over the ground making a track where the trees did not interfere, made the basis for the establishment of the road. Some roads were laid out on the Indian trails, such as the old road to New Haven by Burwell's Farm and Oyster River; also the road to Turkey Hill.

The old country road to the ferry was called the Witch Road. A ferry was established in 1675.

Hog Rock, a boulder about ten feet in diameter, is located about a mile east of Washington Bridge. The following stanza explains the origin of its name:

"Once four young men upon ye rock  
Sate down at chuffle board one daye;  
When ye Deuill appeared in shape of a hogg;  
Ande frighten'd you so they scampered awaye;  
Ande left Olde Nick to finish ye play."

On the north side of the rock is cut in capitals, "LIBERTY, 1776," done by Peter Pierett, Jr., at the time of the Revolutionary War. Thus old Cloven Foot's gaming table is made a monument of American Liberty.

1712 In 1712 a committee was appointed by the town to agree with the Stratford authorities to carry the inhabitants to Milford over the river for half price on condition that the town furnished a ferry boat on this side.

1802 "In 1802 the New Haven and Milford Turnpike Company was opposed by the people of the town who objected to the turnpike road running through people's land, necessitating that they should keep the old road except cutting off sharp corners."

## ORIGINAL BRIDGES

### LOCATION AND DATES OF BUILDING

- 1640 The Meeting House Bridge.
- 1645 Fowler's Bridge.
- 1662 Indian or Great Bridge.
- 1706 Plum's Bridge crossing Indian River on the old Country Road.
- 1711 King's Bridge.
- 1723 Bridge from a point below the present Episcopal Church near the present Railroad Bridge, now discontinued.
- 1753 Oyster River Bridge.
- 1768 North Street Foot Bridge by Jehiel Bristol.

- 1798 Washington Bridge\* over the Housatonic supported by the Turnpike Company; about the same date Jefferson Bridge over Milford River also built and supported by the Turnpike Company.
- 1810 Gulf Bridge.

### THE OLD KING'S HIGHWAY

THE ROUTE THAT PROBABLY† WASHINGTON TOOK THROUGH THE TOWN ON HIS JOURNEY FROM PHILADELPHIA TO CAMBRIDGE TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED COLONIES ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1775.

Crossing the Housatonic River by the Ferry, a few rods North of Washington Bridge; then on a road (Witch Road), running north of the present Turnpike terminating near Hog Rock, continuing on the present Turnpike to a fork in the road near the present Tibbal's House, then following left hand of fork along by the Railroad, across the Bridge, to the right, to the next fork, then left a short distance crossing Clark Street. Keeping the upper road, next corner turning right into West Main Street over what was known as Capt. Cornelius Peck Hill, continuing on West Main over Col. Ford Hill, where there was an old tavern built in 1710. On reaching the church he turned right into West River Street to where the railroad bridge is now, then left into Daniel Street, then left across what is now Memorial Bridge along by the railroad route across Gulf Street to Buckingham Avenue, a short street running into New Haven Avenue: crossing Indian River, over Eells Hill to fork in the road, turning left by schoolhouse at Burwell's Farm into New Haven Avenue, turn-

\* Upon the completion of Washington Bridge the ferry was sold to William Hopkins for \$750.00, but a ferry was mentioned at Oronoque as late as 1850.

† Prepared for the Pilgrimage in 1914 of the Officers of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to mark the route taken by Gen. Washington on his journey from Philadelphia to Cambridge to take command of the Army of the United Colonies, June 22nd to July 3d, 1775.

ing left keeping the Avenue, crossing Oyster River Bridge; turning left over Jones Hill into West Haven at the Green, Campbell Avenue to Milford Hill over West Bridge to New Haven.

Mile stones were erected along this road by Benjamin Franklin during his administration as Postmaster-General of the United States.

### \*MILFORD AS A MILL TOWN

**1640** From its settlement, Milford became famous as a Mill town. March, 1640, it was "agreed between William Fowler and the brethren that he should build a mill and have her going by the last of September"; for his encouragement the Town made him a grant of thirty acres, rent free during his life, which land long bore the name of the Mill Lot. It was the first mill erected in New Haven Colony and was of such importance that when damaged by a freshet the town "voted whenever aid was needed that each man should contribute one day's work."

**1675** A Fulling Mill and a Saw Mill were built on the Island near the meeting house by Maj. Treat, Elder Buckingham, Lieut. Fowler, and Thomas Hayes.

**1689** A fulling Mill was built upon Beaver Brook by Capt. Samuel Eells, Timothy Baldwin and Samuel Couch. Permission was given them upon consideration that they agree to build a bridge if the dam stopped the water to such an extent as to make it impassable for horses or carts.

**1706** John Plumm, Sr., was permitted to set up a Grist Mill at East River, on condition "that he build a good causeway and bridge for foot, cart and horse over the river," he and his heirs and assigns to keep the same in repair.

**1713-14** A mill was erected by a company of forty at the Gulf but did not prove a success.

\* Name may have been acquired from the English town of this name or from the Mill by the ford.

## BURYING GROUND

The Indians had a burying ground at Indian Point between East River and the Sound. In digging the cellar for the house of Daniel Buckingham some years since, skeletons were unearthed buried in a sitting posture and apparently preserved by charcoal. One skeleton indicated that the owner was nearly eight feet in height. The Indians also had burying grounds at Oronoque and Turkey Hill.

The eastern end of Mr. Prudden's garden, Plot 40, was first utilized by the settlers as a burying place and Sarah Camp, wife of Nicholas, was the first adult person buried on this spot. It is said that she had twins and was doing well until the night of the 4th of September, when she was taken suddenly ill from a cold, died in the morning and was buried in the evening in the garden of Mr. Peter Prudden, pastor.

This locality was used for the purpose of a burying ground until 1675. Mr. Prudden, himself, was buried there in 1656.

Apparently the old part of the present burying ground was acquired at about that time. It is one of the most ancient and interesting in the country and contains the graves of many of the settlers born in England.

Inscriptions on tombstones erected prior to 1800 were transcribed and annotated by the late Nathan G. Pond in 1889 and published in the New Haven Colony Historical Society papers, Vol. V.

**1751** Previous to 1751 the old burying ground was open on all sides; but at that time a fence was built on the road side and a road three rods wide laid out on the south side. Adjoining ground has been acquired by purchase at different times.

**1825** Not until 1825 was a hearse purchased, the old-fashioned method of carrying on a bier existing until that time.

The present cemetery contains the following identified graves of Revolutionary patriots, the tombs indicated by a bronze marker furnished by the Connecticut Society Sons of the American Revolution:—John Buckingham, Benjamin

Gillette, John Ford, Amos Ford, Capt. Charles Pond, Lieut. Benjamin Fenn, Lieut. John Fowler, Lieut. Jehiel Bryant, Sr., Sergt. Jehiel Bryant, Jr., Lieut. Nathan Baldwin, Samuel Wise, Samuel B. Smith, Samuel Clarke and David Clarke.

There are undoubtedly other graves of Revolutionary patriots that are yet unidentified.

On the southwest corner of the old burying ground stands an imposing monument in memory of revolutionary soldiers who were buried on this spot.\* The following inscription tells the story:

#### INSCRIPTION

In honor of Forty-six American Soldiers who sacrificed their lives in struggling for the Independence of their country; this monument was erected in 1852, by joint liberality of the General Assembly; the people of Milford and other contributing friends. Two hundred American Soldiers, in a destitute, sickly and dying condition, were brought from a British Prison Ship, near New York, and suddenly cast upon our shore from a British Cartel ship, on the first of January 1777. The Inhabitants of Milford made the most charitable efforts for the relief of these suffering strangers; yet notwithstanding all their kind ministrations in one month these 46 died and were buried in one common grave.

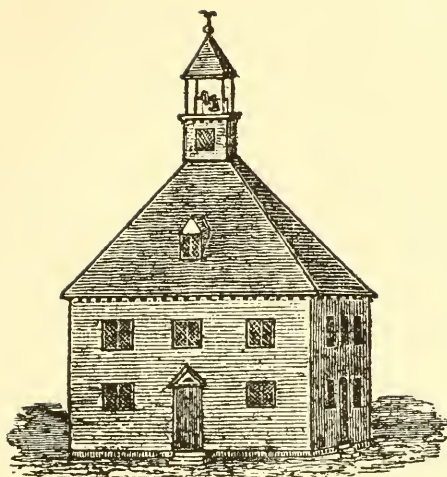
#### NAMES AND RESIDENCES AS INSCRIBED ON THE MONUMENT.

Captain Stephen Stow, Milford, Feb. 8, 1777; Age 51 years.

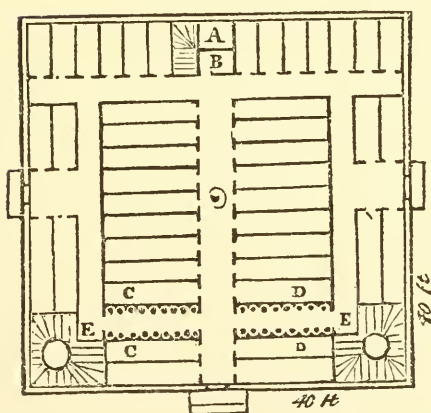
Josiah Colman, Sharon; Ebenezer Upham, Killingly; John Smith, Chatham; Antonio Gomez, Spain; John Clements, Middlebury; Richard Drake, Mass.; Samuel Fuller, Norwich; Amos Smith, Conn.; John Snow, Chatham; Richard Holder, Glastonbury; John Biddle, New London; John White, Mass.; William Thomas, Rocky Hill; Ebenezer Truman, Harwinton; Hezekiah Lee, Norwalk; Joseph Trowbridge, Killingly; Stephen Brown, Mass.; Benjamin Peas, Attleborough; Samuel Everett, Wrentham; Samuel Gale, Penn.; Richard Polsey, Conn.; Nathan Wilton, Conn.; Elijah Gregory, New London; Thomas Madison, ———; Solomon Jackson, Middlebury; Joseph Arnold, Chatham; Thomas Wright, Simsbury; Simon Elwell, Mass.; Abel Hart, Farmington; Constant Turner, Middletown; John ———, Penn.; Robert Colingham, Cape Ann; Benjamin Frisby, Harwinton; Abram Beach, Goshen; Asa Ladd, Haverhill; Samuel Whitney, Stratford; Elisha Bronson, Litchfield; John Pomeroy, Northampton; Joseph Mansier, Middlebury; Stephen ———, Penn.; Richard Minot, Mass.; Sergt. Smith, Mass.; Daniel Benedict, Harwinton; Sergt. Wright, Bolton; Sergt. George Milburn, Salem; Daniel Farnham, Windham.

\* These men were cared for by Stephen Stow, husband of Freelove Baldwin Stow, after whom the Milford Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution was named.





*South view of the first Meeting House.*



*Ground plan of the first Meeting House.*

A, the pulpit; B, deacons' seat; C, guard seats; D, guard seats on the women's side of the house. The dots show the place where the guns were set. E, gallery stairs. The bell rope hung down in the middle aisle.

## CHURCHES

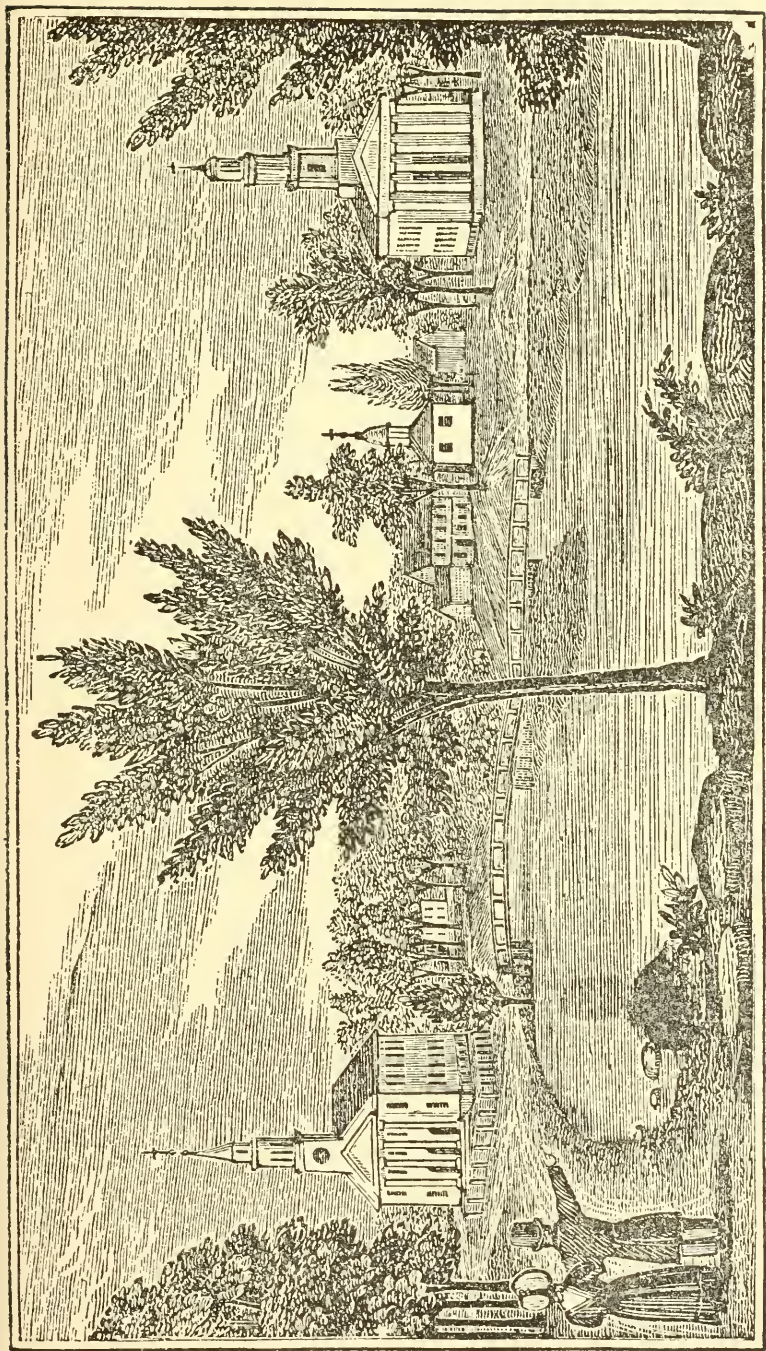
1641 The first meeting house, erected in 1641, was forty feet square. A gallery was added in 1697 and in 1700 a place was provided back of the seats for the "guards to set their arms." "In sitting, respect was paid to aged persons, the wives of church officers and magistrates, general military officers and deaf persons."

1727-8 The second meeting house was built 80 x 65 feet, three stories high, two tiers of gallery, the upper one designed for the slaves and other blacks to sit in. The plan of the house was said to have been drawn by Governor Law, 1740. It was voted to purchase a new bell of 600 pounds, the old one being cracked.\* In the same year Ebenezer Parmelee set up a brazed clock, which proving to be a good one, the Town, two years after, paid for it. In 1825 the Town employed Barzillai Davidson to make a new wooden clock at an expense of \$260. He took for part payment the old brazed wheel clock, allowing for it \$40. This, it is said, he set up and sold in New York for \$600.

1741 The Second Presbyterian Society at Milford was originated in 1741 by members of the First Church, opposed to the settlement of Mr. Whittlesey. "The debates were conducted with so much passion that it is said fists were doubled." The first meeting was at the home of Mr. George Clark, Jr. Persons who qualified as Presbyterians according to the Church of Scotland were George Clark, Samuel Tyrrel, Bartholomew Sears, Benjamin Fenn, Ezra Camp, Nathaniel Buckingham, George Clark, Jr., Henry Peck, Joel Baldwin, Elder Noah Baldwin, Ephraim Strong, Jr., Samuel Whiting,

\* The old bell was taken to the foundry for old metal in part payment for the new one. It was brazed and sold to a society in Waterbury and now hangs in the belfry in the church at Salem Bridge and is considered to be the best bell in the State.

No one was excused from attending the public worship on Sunday, except on account of sickness. A fine of Four Shillings and sometimes a whipping was imposed for non-attendance. Apples and nuts were not to be indulged in on the Lord's day or travel more than a sabbath journey (two miles) except to attend meeting.



### SOUTHERN VIEW OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES IN MILFORD.

The building seen on the left is the first Congregational Church; **that** on the right, the second; the small building with a spire is the Academy.

(Copied from an old engraving about 1835.)

For a number of years Academy Building, erected 1810, stood on the banks of the river near the Plymouth Church, kept until 1825 by Elijah Bryan, afterwards by Oliver Hammond, later by Jonas French; afterwards by Miss Brandon. This esteemed and worthy woman will be remembered by the writer and many of his friends to whom she gave their earliest instruction.



Benjamin Fenn, Jr., John Smith, Jesse Lambert, Samuel Sandford, 3d, Joseph Fenn, Jr., Jeremiah Peck, Jr., Peleg Baldwin, Samuel Sanford, Samuel Smith, Andrew Sandford, Jr. John Sandford, William S. Sears, also, soon after, Andrew Sandford, Jonathan Fowler, Josiah Tibbals, Ephraim Strong, Josiah Northrop, Samuel Sandford, Jr., Joseph Fenn, Samuel Bristol, John Downs, Samuel Oviatt, Thomas Tibbals, Thomas Welch, Jerijah Baldwin, Edmund Treat and Horace Peck.

**1764** The Episcopal Society was formed in 1764 although the collector of taxes in 1739 had complained that they met with difficulty in collecting from some persons who called themselves Episcopalians (Church of England), and it was voted that the selectmen should apply for advice to the Hon. Jonathan Law, Roger Newton and Samuel Gunn, Esq., and proceed according to their advice. The church was built in 1771 and consecrated with the name of "St. George Church" in March, 1775.

**1836** The Methodist Episcopal Society of Milford was formed in August 1836 at the home of Stephen Gunn and for a year held services in the Baptist Church then standing. In 1837 a building was purchased on North Street for \$450, and was used for worship until 1844, when the larger and more commodious one was built on Main Street opposite the present Milford Trust Company and the first building was sold to D. Beach & Co. for use in connection with their carriage factories. The present Mary Taylor Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, built on Broad Street in 1892-3, by the children of the late Henry A. and Mary Taylor as a memorial to their mother, is one of the most beautiful and artistic churches of the present day.

**1853** The first Catholic church was erected on Gulf Street and was continued as a mission attached to St. Mary's of New Haven.

**1881** As expressed by Rev. P. H. McClean in an interesting History of the Catholic Church in Milford, "With the zeal and hearty coöperation of the faithful of Saint Mary's, the present church was built and dedicated on June 25th, 1882."

## TAVERNS

The Tavern, or Public House, was of great importance to the early settlers, the method of traveling being such as to require a stop for refreshments for man or beast at frequent intervals.

**1644** The Town Records of 1644 refer to a debate in reference to an "Ordinary" and offered inducement to Henry Tomlinson if he would undertake one speedily so that the "town might not be destitute." Apparently Tomlinson exchanged property with Richard Bryan and established a Public House. Lambert says, "on the old country road 10 or 12 rods west of the meeting house."

**1656** In 1656, Tomlinson was before the court for selling strong water, wine and beer at greater prices than allowed. This tavern was afterwards kept by the Bryans and is said to have existed up to about 1820; then kept by David Butler.

**1789** General Washington stopped twice at Milford. Lambert says that this tavern was kept by Andrew Clark in 1789. Investigation indicates that the Clark Tavern was located on or near Plot 11 where Joseph R. Clark now lives on West River Street; a portion of the house is still standing and in good state of preservation. Mrs. Clark (Sarah Ford) relates a story often told her by her grandmother, who saw George Washington as he came up the stone steps; one or two of these steps near the top are now standing and serve as an entrance from the street to the present house. Her grandmother, who lived in this house, also recalled General Washington's order of bread and milk for supper, and being served with a pewter spoon, asked for a silver one. When told that the house did not afford one, he gave a shilling to the attendant with instructions to "go over to the minister's and borrow one."

**1705** A tavern was kept on lot 50 by one John Camp.

**1710** A house was built and opened by Samuel Miles on the hill known as the "Col. Samuel B. Ford Hill."

**1830-40** There were at least four Public Houses in the town of sufficient importance to be mentioned by Lambert. One at Washington Bridge kept by Capt. Frank Trowbridge, one at Milford Point kept by Bennagh Thompson. This was said to be "a delightful resort for people from the country who wished to visit the seashore." The Milford Hotel on Broad Street standing on the present site of the Chapter House of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was the most important and was kept by Nathan Merwin. Another on the opposite side of the green, probably the DeWitt house (now standing), was also a Public House at that time and was kept by Capt. Stephen Trowbridge. A Tavern once stood opposite the Episcopal Church called "Buddington Tavern."

## EDUCATION

Education received early attention. The first schoolmaster was Jasper Gunn. Richard Bryan was also an early teacher.

**1645** In 1645 the first school house was built and occupied until 1734.

**1656** According to New Haven Records, a Latin school was established in Milford. It seemed to be still in existence in 1696. An appropriation of thirty pounds was made from the treasury of the town and the school was kept open the whole year. Mr. Samuel Andrews, the teacher, was to see "that the school was attended by such scholars that need learning."

**1750** In 1750 schools were established at Amity (Woodbridge), ye Bryan's Farms, Burwell's Farms and Wheeler's Farms.

**1790** In 1790, Steven Gunn, Esq., was appointed treasurer and Gideon Buckingham, clerk, to receive public money for the school fund and the following committee were appointed to collect the money and pay it over to the treasury: Abraham W. DeWitt, Joseph Pratt, Jr., William Cogswell, William Atwater, Nathan Baldwin and Lewis Mallett.



**1734** In 1734, a new school house was built that was torn down in 1758 by British Soldiers on a lark or revel. That year being the year of the French and Indian Wars, a company of the King's Troops were quartered in the town.

**1833** In 1833 a Town Hall was built, "Elijah Baldwin, Architect, expense \$12,000; 42 x 32 feet; two stories high." The upper story was used for a central school room. It was voted that the lower part of this building should be occupied for the use of the town exclusively and the upper part for the advancement of education. It is the impression of the writer that the Original West Town House, yet standing, is the building herein described. Many hundred of Milford boys received their education on the second floor of that portion of this Town House. In the first two hundred years of the existence of the town, or up to 1838, one hundred had received collegiate education.

### MILFORD FURNISHED THE FIRST THREE RECTORS OR PRESIDENTS OF YALE COLLEGE

It is a most remarkable fact that the three first officers, rectors or presidents of Yale College were directly or indirectly of the town of Milford.

*First President.* Abraham Pierson, the first rector of Yale College, resided in Milford after his graduation and pursued his theological studies under Mr. Newton. There he married Abigail Clark (daughter of George Clark), sister of Sarah, the mother of Governor Law. Pierson held the position of Yale's president from 1701 until his death in 1712.

*Second President.* Samuel Andrews, who was for fifty years a pastor in the town of Milford, was the successor of Abraham Pierson in 1707 and was the second rector or President of Yale.

*Third President.* In 1719, Rev. Timothy Cutler, son-in-law of Rector Andrews, was third Rector or President of Yale and as Dexter says, "was selected not without misgivings."

He was thirty-five years of age, had made a favorable impression for ability. During his administration, the first college building was erected at New Haven. "About the time it was finished," as expressed by Dexter, "the Rector's usefulness came to a sudden end, when it became known that he was considering the question of declaring for Episcopacy."

#### EDITOR'S NOTES

Pierson and Andrews were original trustees at the meeting of the Connecticut pastors at Branford in 1701 that had constituted the founding of Yale College. It was then designated by Boston gentlemen from Harvard College as a collegiate school.

The first Yale commencement was held in 1702 at the house of Thomas Buckingham (of Milford descent) at Saybrook Point.

The beautiful and picturesque "Laurelton Hall," formerly the estate of the late Henry A. Taylor (built by Charles H. Pond) is, at the present time, a Catholic boarding school for young ladies, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. There are usually from seventy-five to one hundred pupils.

### TRADE, COMMERCE AND SHIP BUILDING

1819 The Gazetteer of the State of Connecticut and Rhode Island, 1819, refers to Milford as an ancient maritime post township and says, "It is a circumstance of no small importance that it is situated immediately upon a stream of water communicating directly with Milford Harbor which is navigable to the Sound and sufficiently copious to operate the mills. . . . The waters of the 'Ousatonick,' wash its Western border and the Wapawaug runs through its center from North to South. . . . The great Atlantic road from New Haven to New York leads through the center of this town. . . . It has vessels engaged in foreign and coastwise trade. . . . There is a comfortable and pleasant village which is of an ancient date. . . . It comprises within the limits of about one mile space, nearly 100 dwellings many of which are neat and handsome buildings. . . . There are 4 corn mills; one of which is a large merchant's mill for flour and contains 4 run of stones, 3 full mills and clothiers' works 3 carding machines and 3 canneries. . . . The population in 1810 was 2,674;

3 companies of militia and 380 dwelling houses. The list of the town 1816, was 54,320 (dollars). This is one of the ancient towns of the State and was settled as early as 1638."

**1640** The first merchants were Alexander Bryan and son, Richard: as early as 1640 trade with Boston by water was begun.

**1650** The town granted Bryan a piece of land as a store-house, corner of Broad Street and Dock Lane (Wharf Street) and he built a dock at the end of the Lane.

**1653** He contributed the dock to the town in 1653 on condition that it should always be kept in good repair at the expense of the town.

**1655** The town gave Richard Bryan permission to build a warehouse near his father's home on the other side of the highway and Sergeant East a warehouse between this and the home of Miles Merwin the tanner.

**1675** The men above mentioned owned vessels making voyages to the West Indies and between Milford and Boston. They sent to the West Indies cattle, horses, beef and corn meal and brought back rum and molasses.

**1686** The town encouraged trade and commerce by giving Nicholas Camp the ground for a new warehouse.

**1696** Mungel Nesbitt, a resident of the town, was given liberty to prosecute free trade and commerce and he opened traffic to New York in 1696.

**1714** Samuel Clarke bought Bryan's warehouse in 1714 and in 1730 Peter Perritt, a Frenchman, built a wharf and sent a ship to France (for a cargo of wine) which made a good voyage across the ocean but was wrecked and the cargo lost between Newport and Milford.

About 1754, John Gibbs engaged in maritime enterprises and sent boats from Milford to Holland.

**1790** Charles Pond & Co. built the wharf at the Gulf.

**1821** Strong & Miles engaged beyond their capacity in a commercial enterprise and failed. With their failure it is said the marine commercial enterprises of the town were discontinued.

1690 Ship building was prominent in 1690. A brig of 150 tons was built and in 1695 another for a Boston merchant.

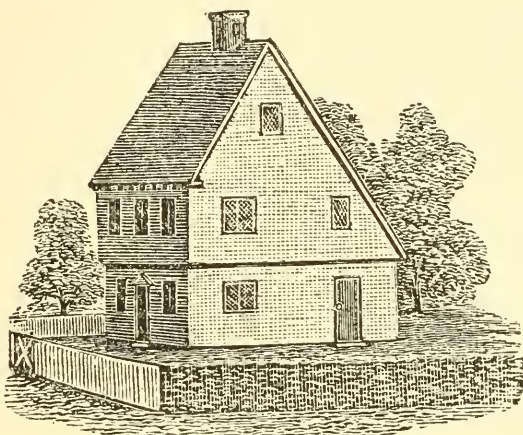
1717 The *Scaflower* was launched by Richard Bryan and several boats were built at Milford for New York and Boston people. The last important vessel built was an East Indian ship named *Isabella*, launched in 1818, owned by parties in New York. Vessels were also, at this period, built upon the "Housatonic" River and at Wheeler's Farm. A ship building plant in the rear of Fowler's Mill existed during the early part of the nineteenth century.

1651 Hop raising was once a most important industry of the town and it was encouraged by the authorities. In 1651 action was taken by the General Court, owing to the pressing need for hops. Acres of ground were granted to Edward Wooster to be improved as a hop garden. Sergeant Camp afterwards had a grant for a hop garden "for as much land as he should want beside the Paugusett River" (Housatonic).

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

In the early part of 1800 the quarrying of marble at Milford was an important industry. The color of the stone was a verde antique and it was so attractive that the Capitol at Washington contains chimney pieces made from this marble.

Stiles in 1794 says, "Governor Treat's house was on Mr. Tapp's lot." He says, "Mr. Edmund Treat, now 80 years old, lives and owns the farm lot with other pieces of land that were Mr. Tapp's and Governor Treat's."



*Southwest view of Governor Treat's House.*

The following is the fac-simile of his signature, and of the seal used by him:

Robert Treat



Robert Treat\* was by far the most distinguished citizen the town ever produced from its settlement to the present date. He was a son of Richard, the founder of Wethersfield, and came to Milford (when sixteen years of age) with Rev. Prudden. He rapidly rose to prominence and, being a surveyor, assisted in the laying out of the town.

1653 Lambert gives him the credit of being the first Town Clerk of Milford from 1640 to 1648 but this fact is difficult to establish. He was chosen Deputy from the General Court

\* For a more complete account see New Haven Colony Historical Society, Vol. 7, paper entitled "Robert Treat, Founder, Farmer, Soldier, Statesman, Governor," read before the New Haven Colony Historical Society by George Hare Ford, 1911.



## • ROBERT TREAT •

THE DOMINANT SPIRIT IN THE SETTLEMENT OF NEWARK IN 1666  
CHOSE THIS SITE FOR HIS HOME.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICES.

"THE NEIGHBOURS FROM MILFORD FREELY GAVE WAY  
THAT CAPTAIN ROBERT TREAT SHOULD CHUSE EIGHT  
ACRES FOR HIS HOME LOTT"

HE WAS TOWN MAGISTRATE. THE FIRST TOWN CLERK.  
ONE OF THE TWO DEPUTIES TO THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

AND IN THE GENERAL AFFAIRS OF THE YOUNG  
SETTLEMENT'S FOUNDATION BECAME A TRUSTED LEADER.

IN 1672 HE RETURNED TO CONNECTICUT  
AND LATER WON HONOUR ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE  
IN KING PHILIP'S WAR. HE WAS GOVERNOR FOR THIRTEEN  
YEARS AND WAS ONE OF THAT DAUNTLESS COMPANY WHO  
REFUSED TO SURRENDER THE COLONY'S CHARTER  
AND CONCEALED IT IN THE CHARTER OAK.

IN A LARGE DEGREE IT WAS HIS WISDOM IN COUNSEL  
AND FORCEFULNESS IN ADMINISTRATION  
THAT MADE THE "TOWN ON THE PESAYACK"  
THE WORTHY FORERUNNER OF THE GREATER NEWARK

ERECTED BY

THE SCHOOLMENS CLUB

ASSISTED BY THE PUPILS OF THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWARK, DAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1912

TREAT TABLET ON KUNNEY BUILDING—

*Courtesy of Newark Evening News.*

to Milford in 1653 and annually each year until 1659, when he was elected magistrate and served until 1664, when he declined reelection in consequence of being obliged to take the oath prescribed, namely:—favoring the union of New Haven and Connecticut Colonies. At this time great discontent prevailed and Milford declined to send representatives to the General Court. The union of the two colonies was accomplished in 1665 but on terms so unsatisfactory to Robert Treat that he, with forty heads of families from New Haven, Milford and Branford, together with Abraham Pierson, the first rector of Yale College, as their spiritual leader, removed and settled on the banks of the Passaic River. They called that place “Milford,” which was its name until 1667 when its name was changed to Newark in honor of the English home of Rev. Mr. Pierson.

Treat was an acknowledged leader of men. Stearns in his history of Newark speaks of him as follows:—“Next comes Robert Treat the flower and pride of the whole company and to whose wise energy Newark owes much of its early order and good management.”

The inscription upon the tablet (see illustration) which was recently erected in Newark on the site of his old home will show the regard in which he is still held by the people.

**1672** Treat, however, returned to Milford, 1672; but retained his property in New Jersey, leaving two of his children on that soil. At all Newark historical celebrations Robert Treat is referred to as the father and founder.

**1654** As early as 1654, Treat was chosen as Lieutenant of the Train band at Milford. Later he was elected Captain and in 1673 was commissioned as Major and formed a committee of safety.

**1675** King Phillip's War. Robert Treat was chosen Commander-in-chief of the Connecticut forces. The most conspicuous event in his long military career was the “Swamp Fight.” On his return he was commissioned Colonel of the militia of New Haven County.

**1676** The following year he was elected Deputy-Governor of the Colony and was annually elected Governor or Deputy-

Governor for thirty-two years until 1708, when he declined reelection to the office; having served during the most important years of New England's history. In 1686 and 1687, James II. recalled all the charters of the New England colonies.

The General Assembly of Connecticut convened, Governor Treat in the chair presided over the deliberators. Sir Edmund Andros arrived with great ceremony, demanding the charter in the name of the crown. "The story of the hiding of the charter," and the facts in connection therewith are a chapter of history. The charter was preserved, it is said, "through the diplomacy and skillful management by the masterhand of Governor Robert Treat."

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

There are more descendants from Richard and Robert Treat among the members of The Society of Colonial Wars than from any other family.

**1709** Col. Robert Newton is referred to as a prominent man in Milford. He was a grandson of the minister, a graduate of Harvard, distinguished as a military officer in Queen Anne's War, 1709, served at Louisburg as commander of the Connecticut troops; was a Colonel of the Second Regiment, Judge of the County Court and Chief Judge in 1737 until his death.

**1665** Gideon Buckingham is referred to as a prominent man in the colony. A graduate of Yale in 1665, thirty-four years town clerk.

Gov. Charles Hobby Pond, whose attractive residence stood upon Broad Street, will long be remembered by many of the present day. Of commanding presence—democratic and aristocratic—courteous and magnetic; his characteristics have been transmitted to his descendants. Milford owes much to this distinguished family, especially the late Nathan G. Pond of cherished memory.

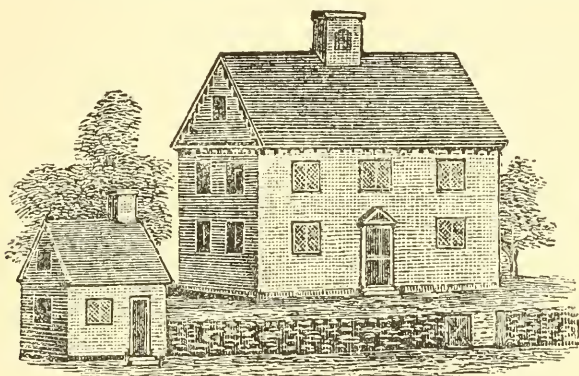
#### EDITOR'S NOTE

For other prominent men who have been distinguished in the various walks of life, Military and Civic, including ancestors of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, see Historical Address of George Hare Ford upon the unveiling of the Milford Fountain, page 70.



This house stood on lot 15, original map. Governor Law purchased the lot and the Regicide house and according to Stiles built his house a rod or two from the Regicide house.

Governor Law (Jonathan, Jr.) was a grandson of Richard Law who was a first settler of Wethersfield, later moving to Stamford where he became a magistrate and had business at



*Southeast view of Governor Law's House*

The following is a fac-simile of Governor Law's signature, and his private seal, which, it may be seen, is a combination of the letters composing his name :

Jonathan Law



New Haven. The following story is told in connection with the settlement of Jonathan Law at Milford in 1664: Richard, the magistrate, and Jonathan his son were being entertained by Robert Treat (afterwards Governor) over Sunday. At the meeting house Jonathan was charmed with the appearance of one of the maidens present, who proved to be Sarah, a daughter of George Clark. Arrangements were made for an introduction and Jonathan was successful in his suit. They were married in 1664. Their son, Jonathan, Jr. (afterwards Governor), was educated at Harvard, graduating in 1695. He

studied law and acquired a reputation in this State as a counsellor. In 1724 he was chosen Deputy-Governor; in 1741 Governor and he was annually reëlected until his death. In 1750 President Stiles of Yale College pronounced, as one expressed it, a pompous funeral oration in Latin upon this occasion. Governor Law had five wives: 1698, Anne Elliott; 1705, Abigail Arnold; 1706, Abigail Andrew, daughter of the Minister. His fourth, Sarah ———, 1726, died 1727; the fifth, Eunice, widow of Samuel Andrew, survived him. Governor Law had seven sons, Jahleel, died 1701; Jonathan, born 1705; Jaheel, born 1707, settled in Cheshire; Samuel, 1711, Milford; Richard, 1712, died early; Richard, 1732, settled in New London; John, 1735, died in the Army, French War. Richard and John were students at Yale at the time of the death of their father. Richard graduated in 1751; was a member of Congress, Judge of the Superior Court; and died Mayor of the City of New London.

THE REGICIDE HOUSE IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE OLDEST IN  
EXISTENCE IN THE TOWN TO-DAY

Goffe and Whalley, two of the Judges who signed the death warrant of Charles the First, resided in concealment in the vicinity of Milford from 1661-1664, three years and seven months.

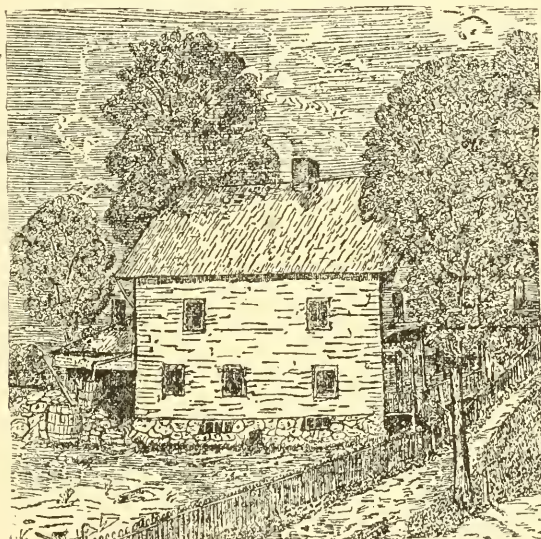
The most prominent house of historic interest that can be identified as still in existence is undoubtedly the Regicide House, restored and removed within the recollection of many of the present day to the south side of Peacock Lane (now Maple Street) a short distance from West River Street.

It is in a good state of preservation and the outline of the main house may readily be recognized. This house originally stood on the site of the present central school house. Lambert says it stood on plot 15. Stiles says, "The Judges took up an asylum in the house of Mr. Tompkins thirty or forty rods from the meeting house; that Governor Law afterwards bought this house and lot and built his seat on that lot a rod or two from it." He, Stiles, was frequently in the Tompkins



house in the Governor's time. The building was about "twenty feet square, two floors on a stone wall and considered as a store: the top floor used by the Tompkins family as a spinning room."

"The Judges were here in concealment for two years, 1661-2. Roger Newton was the minister. Mr. Treat, Mr. Fenn and a few others were said to be in the secret."



The Judges also lived for a time at Judges' Cave and at Providence Hill, Amity, "Woodbridge." The hill is said to have acquired its name in connection with the Judges.\*

Stiles states that Mr. George Clark, a very intelligent man, pointed out to him the Providence Hill and in a deed executed by this Mr. Clark in 1716 in deeding land to his son he describes it as being at a place called the Lodge. A brook of water running westward was called Bladen Brook. This place is now on the farm owned, I think, by Mr. Peck. While living here Richard Sperry of Woodbridge furnished the Regicides with food. The Lodge is sometimes called Hatchet Harbor.

\* See History of the Judges, President Stiles, 1794.

## TOWN CLERKS

The following is a list of the town clerks, from the settlement of the town to the present time, with the year they were chosen: Robert Treat 1640, Richard Baldwin 1648, Samuel Eells 1680, Daniel Buckingham 1685, Thomas Oviatt (or Offat) 1689, Alexander Bryan 1698, Jonathan Law, Jr., 1705, John Fowler 1718, John Fowler, Jr., 1756, David B. Ingersoll 1774, Samuel Whittlesey 1774, Gideon Buckingham 1776, Abraham V. H. DeWitt 1809, Samuel Higby 1813, David L. Baldwin 1836, John W. Fowler 1876, Richard R. Hapburn 1895, Frank T. Munson 1912.

## ARCTIC ENGINE COMPANY

Arctic Fire Engine Company No. 1 of Milford was organized in 1839, and has been in continual existence to the present time with a membership composed of the most influential men of the town. The following is a list of Foremen with the date of service: Theo. Buddington 1838-40, Hammond Beach 1841-45, Wilson Plumb 1846-50, Mark Tibbals 1851-52, Mark Mallett 1853-55, John P. Downes 1856, Francis H. Bradley 1857, David Miles 1858-73, Charles Luke 1874-76, Charles Munson 1877-82, Wm. H. Andrews 1883-89, E. L. Ford 1890-92, Frank L. Burns 1893-94, Frank L. Burns 1894-1900, Walter M. Irving 1900-02, Charles G. Fowler 1902-03, James E. Nolan 1903-04, Mortimer B. Fowler 1904-07, James E. Dorsey 1907-08, Herman Roder 1908-09, Anthony F. Schlosser 1909-10, James E. Dorsey 1910-11, Lewis F. Stowe 1911-14.

Lambert says, "Milford is a very healthy town" and the following physicians had practised in the town up to 1838:—Jasper Gunn, John Durand, John Fisk, Jean Harpine, Ezekiel Newton, Zebulon Gillet, Thomas Clark, Elias Carrington, Samuel Whittelsey, Caleb Austin, John Rossiter, Abraham Tomlinson, John Carrington, Wm. Tully, Chas. Beardsley, Elijah F. Bryan, Andrew French, Hull Allen, and Joseph Tomlinson.

## NEW MILFORD SETTLED BY MILFORD

1701-02 At a town meeting it was "voted to purchase land at Wiantinoque of the Heathen" and all the freemen who desired to take a share were at liberty to do so and those who desired to exempt themselves, likewise had the liberty to do so. The committee appointed to conduct the transaction consisted of Col. Robert Treat, Ensign George Clark, Ensign Joseph Treat, Mr. Thomas Clark, Ensign Joseph Peck, Sergt. Jonathan Baldwin and Sergt. Timothy Baldwin. They were instructed "to secure the town's interest there to the best of their skill."\*

## THE TOWN OF ORANGE

1822 Incorporated by the General Assembly in 1822; it was originally known as the North Milford Parish and its people were accustomed to attend meetings at Milford as late as 1805.

## OWNERS OF SLAVES, 1790

1790 According to the First Census of the United States, the following residents of Milford in 1790, were owners of slaves: Elias Carrington, 1; Daniel Buckingham, 2; Enoch Clark, 1; Joseph Treat, 2; Jonah Newton, 4; John Smith, 1; Samuel Smith, 1; Joseph Rogers, 1; Isaac Clark, 1; Charlotte Andrews, 1; Phebe Woodruff, 1; Samuel Platt, 1; Heil Bryan, 3; Enoch Clark, 2d, 1; Gideon Platt, 1; Elias Clark, 2; William Andrew, 2; Richard Treat, 1; John Murrain, 1; Elisha Treat, 1; Newton Morris, 1; Benedick Law, 1.

\*For other towns settled by Milford see Historical Address, George Hare Ford, page 70.

# NAMES OF THE HEADS OF FAMILIES RESIDING IN THE TOWN OF MILFORD ACCORDING TO THE FIRST UNITED STATES CENSUS

1790

Carrington, Elias.	Treat, Jonathan.	Fowler, Nathaniel.	Jillet, Elliphalet.	Jellet, John.
Higgins, Timothy.	Fenn, Sarah.	Fowler, Anna.	Baldwin, Thaddeus.	Clarke, William.
Hine, Joel.	Priden, Samuel.	Hoods, Catherine.	Baldwin, Abraham.	Marren, John.
Martin, Susannah.	Woodruff, Joseph.	Jones, Isaac.	Ceaser (Negroe).	Sadley, John.
Marchant, Mary.	Platt, Joseph.	Lawrence, Katey.	Whitney, Isaac.	Bens, Juhn.
Nettleton, Samuel.	Mallery, Samuel.	Miles, John.	Prime (Negroe).	Baldwin, Solomon.
Fern, Mary.	Treat, Daniel.	Green, Sarah.	Wetmore, Joseph.	Baldwin, Daniel.
Clarke, Elizabeth.	Buckingham, Ephraim.	Clarke, Mary.	Beebie, Joel.	Platt, Isaac.
Buckingham, Daniel.	Strong, Elnathan.	Strong, John.	Plumb, John.	Purtree, John.
Talmage, Ezra.	Stone, Samuel.	Woods, Titus.	Anderson, Atiny.	Plumb, Isaac.
Strong, Ephraim.	Clarke, Isaac.	Fowler, John.	Prime (Negroe).	Beach, Landle.
Strong, Ephraim.	Andrews, Charlotte.	Platt, Jiremah.	Miles, Theophilus.	Beach, Thomas.
Marshall, Joseph.	Nettleton, Benajah.	Buckingham, John.	Bull, Jeremiah.	Burrel, Samuel.
Marshall, John.	Fenn, Aron.	Buckingham, Gedion.	Baldwin, Isaac.	Burrel, Samuel, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Northrop, Clement.	Platt, Richard.	Bradley, Israel.	Mallery, Daniel.	Jellet, John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Deering, Samuel.	Hine, Stephen.	Goldsmith, Joseph.	Baldwin, Jeremiah.	Bunnel, John.
Deering, Andrew.	Woodruff, Phebe.	Donalds, Samuel.	Baldwin, David.	Pritchard, Nathaniel.
Deering, John.	Joe (Negroe).	James (Negroe).	Attwater, William.	Burrel, Jeremiah.
Deering, Ann.	Platt, Samuel.	Higby, Samuel.	Baldwin, William.	Burrel, Daniel.
Clarke, Patty.	Platt, Sibel.	Plumb, Samuel.	Gowsley, William.	Bech, Thaddeus.
Clarke, David.	Clarke, Nathan.	Wise, Samuel.	Gunn, Isaac.	Bech, Samuel.
Burk, John.	Hine, Isaac.	Pry (Negroe).	Clarke, William.	Parker, James.
Bristor, Elizabeth.	Hine, Abraham.	Mallery, Moses.	Northrop, Lazerus.	Plump, Joseph.
Sommers, Abel, 2.	Fenn, James.	Clarke, Andrew.	Camp, David.	Plump, Joseph, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Ashborn, Abigal.	Bassett, Edward.	Britton, Newton.	Ford, Amos.	Murray, Miles.
Bristol, Phico.	Steward, John.	Lockwood, William.	Bisco, Ruth.	Ellis, Samuel.
Hatch, Daniel.	Pridden, John.	Carrington, Edward.	Baldwin, Elnathan.	Ellis, Samuel, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Newton, John.	Priden, Fletcher.	Buckingham, Hannah.	Tomlinson, William.	Ellis, Hester.
Treat, Isaac.	Baldwin, Jerad.	Sears, Francis.	Nettleton, Caleb.	Ellis, Sibel.
Clarke, Enoch.	Pritchard, Isaac.	Ingersall, Clement.	Stow, Jedediah.	Murdoch, William.
Prudden, Jonathan.	Pond, Peter.	Green, Anna.	Baldwin, Advice.	Pritchard, Nathaniel.
Clarke, Neah.	Tuller, David.	Glenny, William.	Baldwin, Elisha.	Whiting, John.
Treat, Joseph.	Colbrith, John.	Mallet, Lewis.	Baldwin, Nathan.	Murren, Mary.
Treat, Isaac.	Downs, John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Miles, Tilla.	Baldwin, Eliph.	Clarke, Rebecca.
Treat, Robert.	Downs, John.	Heppborn, Peter.	Tibbalds, Arnold.	Clarke, Amos.
Storer, Joseph.	Eristol, David.	Perit, Peter.	Clarke, Jonathan.	Platt, Hannah.
Hine, John.	Welsh, Martha.	Davidson, James.	Tibbalds, Benedict.	Clark, James.
Hine, Joseph.	Treat, Edmund.	Fowler, Nathaniel, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Tibbalds, Samuel.	Smith, Isaac.
Frost, Samuel.	Malery, Benjamin.	Bristow, John.	Baldwin, Nathan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Platt, Joseph.
Alling, Gidion.	Bryant, Heil.	Bryant, Joseph.	Bard, Abigel.	Davinson, William.
Woods, Samuel.	Smith, William.	Gabin, Benjamin.	Mills, David.	Nott, William.
Clarke, Amos.	Clarke, Enoch, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Mallery, Moses.	Smith, Joel.	Jellet, Benjamin.
Evans, Evan.	Platt, Gideon.	Bino, Watham.	Clarke, Joseph.	Strong, John.
Newton, Jonah.	Clarke, Elias.	Sacket, Daniel.	Camp, Ezra.	Trant, Philo.
Summers, Henry.	Treat, Samuel.	Stow, Samuel.	Avet, Isaac.	Bryan, Oliver.
Summers, Isaac.	Clarke, Benjamin.	Clarke, Abraham.	Clarke, Abraham.	Pond, Elizabeth.
Smith, John.	Rogers, Jonathan.	Harpin, John.	Collins, John.	Camp, Joab.
Gillet, Elliphalet.	Bryant, John.	Baldwin, Phineas.	Tibbalds, David.	Woodruff, Barnabas.
Gillet, Jonathan.	Fenn, Samuel.	Stow, William.	Camp, Mary.	Sandford, John.
Smith, Joseph.	Andrew, William.	Parn, Daniel.	Bard, Andrew.	Sandford, Elisha.
Smith, Samuel.	Bryant, Thomas.	Murren, David.	Turrel, Samuel.	Wolcott, John.
Jack (Negroe).	Woodruff, Mathew.	Jellet, Zebulon.	Turrel, David.	Sandford, Mother.
Peter (Negroe).	Nettleton, Isaac.	Davidson, Joseph.	Clarke, Abel.	Treat, Joseph, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Munson, William.	Marks, Abraham.	De Witt, Garret.	Hine, Samuel.	Hine, Anna.
Rogers, Joseph.	Buckingham, Joseph.	Oggeshall, William.	Tibbalds, Lemuel.	Park, Joseph.
Smith, David.	Marks, Zachariah.	Bull, Henry.	Baldwin, Josiah.	Clement, Isaac.
Summers, Abel.	Treat, Francis.	Lartherbic, William.	Northrop, Moses.	Treat, Robert.
Munson, Daniel.	Treat, Richard.	Pond, Charles.	Smith, Hezekiah.	Marchant, Ezra.
Benjamin, Berzeler.	Treat, John.	Tomlinson, Abraham.	Smith, Caleb.	Gibbs John.
Botsford, Aron.	Treat, John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Baldwin, Asbeil.	Bim, David.	Smith, Joseph.
Bassett, Mary.	Parker, Jeremiah.	Smith, Mary.	Camp, Elias.	Camp, Samuel.
Turrel, Mary.	Fenn, John.	Arnold, Abigal.	Hine, George.	Camp, Hall.
Foot, John.	Fenn, Isaac.	Coggsall, Freegift.	Bassett, Samuel.	Peck, John.
Simeon (Negroe).	Welsh, Thomas.	De Wint, Garret, N.	Ocain, Antony.	Covert, Elerick.
Joseph (Negroe).	Murray, John, 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	De Wint, Abraham N.	Bassett, Samuel, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Hine, Titus.
Ovet, Ellick.	Pritchard, Martha.	Tebbalds, James.	Bassett, David.	Congo (Negroe).
Gunn, Anna.	Bryant, Heil.	Nettleton, Nathaniel.	Ovett, Ebenezer.	Pomp (Negroe).
Roster, Timothy W.	Molton, Joseph.	Goldsmith, Gilbert.	Smith, Ebenezer.	Law, Benedict.
Whiting, Joseph.	Peck, Ephraim.	Baldwin, Heil.	Peck, Abraham.	Lambert, Jesse.
Baldwin, Thankfull.	Jeff (Negroe).	Perit, Peter.	Northrop, Heth.	Peck, Samuel.
Morris, Richard.	Gabriel, Peter.	Mallet John.	Nettleton, Thaddeus.	Peck, Stephen.
Marchant, Samuel.	Crozier, Henry.	Vanderuer, Thomas.	Ovett, Nathan.	Gunn, Stephen.
Burn, David.	Bull, Benjamin.	Hecock, Aron.	Mallery, Aron.	Baldwin, Amos.
Nando (Negroe).	Smith, Ebenezer.	Gilbert, Katey.	Bassett, Isaac.	Baldwin, Edward.
Camp, Nathaniel.	Smith, Andrew.	Stow, Freelove.	Bawley, John.	Peck, Michael.
Peck, John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Bull, Anna.	Stow, Stephen.	Clarke, Joseph.	Smith, Jeremiah.
Tomlinson, David.	Peck, Hezekiah.	Stow, John.	Peck, Benjamin.	Fowler, Timothy.
Bristow, Nathan.	Baldwin, Justice.	Thompson, James.	Hine, David.	Fowler, William.
Bristow, Richard.	Isaacs, Isaac B.	Ball, Eneedah.	Beers, Benjamin.	Morris, Newton.
Clarke, Oliver.	Warren, Jonathan.	Bull, Temperance.	Beers, John.	Bradley, Jerad.
Northrop, Abel.	Clarke, Thomas.	Miles, Daniel.	Tuttle, Andrew.	Stevens, Thomas.
Smith, Benjamin.	Mallery, Moses.	Goldsmith, William.	Tuttle, Andrew, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Lambert, David.
Lewis, Sarah.	Treat, Stephen.	Goldsmith, James.	Ford, John.	Trussell, Elizabeth.
Baldwin, Sibel.	Murray, John.	Goldsmith, James, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Ford, John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Ben (Negroe).
Prindle, Charles.	Platt, Benjamin.	Beardsley, John.	Ford, Thomas.	Buckingham, Isaac.
Ovet, Isaac.	Isbell, Israel.	Gray, William.	Ford, Thomas.	Pardy, Josiah.
Summers, Agnes.	Treat, Elisha.	Stevens, Eliphalet.	Botchford, David.	Woodruff, Mather.
Botchford, Elnathan.	Hooker, John.	Tebbalds, Arnold.	Botchford, Eli.	Prindle, Josep.



# NAMES OF RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF MILFORD WHO SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861-65\*

Abbott, Oramel G., Lieut.; Andrews, Gilead T.; Amesbury, Marvin H., Sergt.

Baker, Edward E.; Baldwin, Edwin B.; Baldwin, Dennis E.; Baldwin, Dewitt; Baldwin, Elliott H.; Baldwin, Charles W.; Baldwin, John H.; Baldwin, Roger S.; Baldwin, Chauncey; Beach, Dennis, 1st Lieut.; Beach, Fuller W.; Beach, George Marvin, 2d Lieut.; Beach, Oscar C.; Beach, Elliott H.; Beach, Calvin; Beard, Wm. Addison; Bristol, Lewis D.; Baird, Jas. W.; Baird, George U., Brig. Gen'l; Beers, Ira S., Capt.; Beecher, Henry M.; Beecher, R. Frank; Bassett, Mark; Bartlett, Chas. H.; Benham, Geo. W.; Benham, Chas. H.; Bristol, William T.; Bristol, William M.; Bristol, Julius A., Sergt.; Benjamin, David W.; Benjamin, J. M.; Batchelor, Henry E.; Bishop, Willett M.; Broadwell, Commodore M., 1st Sergt.; Burns, Benjamin Walter S.; Buckingham, John W., Lieut.; Buckingham, George F.; Burrleigh, Edward W., Armorer; Brown, James P.; Bristol, Edwin; Buchanan, J. J.; Batsford, Chas. H. K.; Burnett, Thomas; Bronson, Wm. L.; Burwell, Arnold; Booth, Joseph W.; Burns, Geo. Nelson; Bristol, Lewis B.; Billings, Peter, Musician; Brill, William F.

Canfield, Smith; Coy, Geo. W.; Collins, George C. M.; Cairoli, J. S.; Chase, Wallace; Cornwall, Frederic; Cornwall, Chas. E.; Curtiss, Chas. E.; Clark, Arthur E.; Clark, Arthur W.; Clark, Augustus; Clark, Almon E.; Clark, Albertus N.; Clark, Everitt B.; Clark, John G.; Clark, Joseph R.; Clark, Marshall A.; Clark, Nathan; Clark, Theodore M.; Clark, Edwin W.; Clark, Samuel; Coleman, William; Colter, Charles; Christian, Carle; Clark, Samuel B.; Clark, Sydney E., Major; Dahl, John W.; De Gauno, John L.; Dickinson, Sylvanus, Lieut.; Dodge, Jeremiah R.; Dowd, Martin V.; Downs, Henry A.; Dayton, George H.

Ells, William, Major; Eaton, Shepard F.; Edwards, Harmon T.; Elkins, George.

Ford, Charles W.; Ford, James E.; Fenn, William S.; Ferris, James L., Yeoman; Foster, Francis A.; Fowler, Joseph; Fowler, William; French, Smith B.; French, Burr H.

Gabriel, Joseph Peter; Gabriel, Theodore; Gavin, Patrick J., Corp.; Gammel, William F.; Glenney, Samuel C.; Glenney, George H.; Glenney, Stephen W.; Graham, John L., Sergt.; Graham, Wallace W.; Graham, W. L.; Gage, Robert B., 1st Sergt.; Gabriel, John; Gall, John; Gauche (or Dauche).

Haley, Thomas; Harris, W. H., Sergt.; Harris, Theodore; Hawley, Wm. H.; Hill, Daniel; Hine, Abner; Hine, Aaron; Hine, George W.; Hine, James R.; Hine, Lewis; Hopper, Charles, Corp.; Hooghkirk, Wil-

\*Compiled from records furnished by Nathan Stow, a civil war veteran and a descendant of Stephen Stow the Revolutionary Patriot.



liam; Hyde, Samuel D.; Hitchcock, Shirland; Horigan, Patrick; Harris, William; Hephim, Richard, Acting Ensign; Higby, George O. Jackson, Charles S.; Jackson, Homer; Johnson, Guernsey; Jackson, Gilbert.

Keeshan, Dennis; Keifer, Daniel J.

Larrabee, Edwin H.; London, Charles, 1st Sergt.; London, Horace.

Manville, George W.; Marshall, Henry G., Lieut. Capt.; Marks, Hobart; Marks, Treat A.; Merwin, Chas. W.; Merwin, John H.; Michel, Carl (Chas. Michel); Morris, Charles J.; Murphy, Lawrence; McBride, Wm. T.; McCarthy, James; MaGuinness, James.

Nolan, Andrew; Nettleton, Elliott W.; Nettleton, Harvey S.; Nettleton, Henry; Nettleton, Lewis J.; Nettleton, Samuel A.; Northrup, W. A.

Overton, Edward W.; Oviatt, Edward L.; Oviatt, Erasmus; Oviatt, John M.; Oviatt, Willis L., Lieut.

Peck, George T., Corp.; Peck, Chester D.; Peck, Ira Abbott; Peck, Ralph, Acting Ensign; Peck, William H.; Peet, Lauren; Pike, George W.; Peabody, Joseph N., Acting Ensign; Plumb, Albert; Plumb, Edwin W.; Plumb, Wm. Elliott; Plumb, Sydney H.; Platt, Albert C.; Porter, Albert A.; Pope, Julius J.; Prince, Alvin C.; Prince, George W.; Peck, F. Henry.

Rallis, Dwight; Rogers, George E.; Roberts, Frank H.; Ricks, William, Sergt.

Sanford, Chas. H., Capt.; Sanford, Chas. W.; Sanford, John F., Lieut.; Scott, William O.; Scofield, John E.; Scranton, Alonzo; Shine, John; Sherman, Henry; Spencer, Rufus; Slade, Frederic C.; Somers, Joseph; Somers, Dwight; Somers, Levi; Smith, Andrew; Smith, Caleb; Smith, Elliott W.; Smith, Brainerd, Capt.; Smith, Henry Herbert, Corp.; Smith, Henry E.; Smith, James, Lieut.; Smith, Joel; Smith, Miles; Smith, Hezekiah, P.; Smith, Sam'l B.; Sullivan, James; Stowe, Edgar P.; Stowe, Luke; Stowe, Nathan; Stowe, Nelson L.; Stowe, Sydney; Sonnewald, August E.

Taft, Lowell; Tibbals, George W.; Tibbals, James S.; Tibbals, Albert C.; Tinkham, L. Enos; Treat, Noyes; Tucker, Henry A.; Trowers, Wm.; Tuthill, Thomas C.; Trowbridge, Wm. D.; Tinkham, W. H.; Totten, Charles A.; Treat, Thelus C.

Van Horn, Edgar; Van Horn, George.

Warburton, Samuel; Welch, Lewis M.; Williams, Thomas; Wilson, Joseph; Wilson, William L.; Wilcox, John W.; Whitcomb, Russell; Woodbury, Joseph S.; Woodruff, Stiles; Woods, Francis Victor; Williston, Josiah F.; Word, Thomas J.

Yale, Merrit A.; Yale, Ed.





THE HIGBY HOUSE

*The story of Aaron Burr's Encounter with the Deacon*

One of the most conspicuous and interesting old houses in the town is the Higby House near the Second Congregational Church. It is a typical old New England house and was built by Samuel Higby in 1787, at the close of the Revolutionary War; he had served in Col. Wolcott's regiment. Higby was a deacon of what was then called the Second Church and a tithing man. This story is told and verified by Mr. William Higby, now living:—"On Sunday the tithing man was accustomed to take his position in the belfry of the church where he could watch the post road to enforce the law in reference to Sunday traveling. One Sunday morning a carriage with postillions and out-riders came at a rapid pace down the road. Higby went out and stopped them. The occupant was Aaron Burr, Vice President of the United States, who insisted that it was necessary that he should be in Philadelphia at a certain time. Higby informed him that "If the work of a man was of more consequence than the work of God, that was one thing; but he did not think so" and therefore "sent him to the tavern to put up until sundown." This tavern, it is said, was located somewhere near the First Church.

## "A LEAF OF MILFORD HISTORY"

A THANKSGIVING SERMON\* PREACHED AT THE FIRST  
CHURCH, MILFORD, NOVEMBER 25, 1858, BY  
JONATHAN BRACE, D.D., PASTOR OF  
"THE CHURCH

PSALM CXLIII: 5.—*I remember the days of old.*

THE Poet Young tells us "'Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours;" and David thought that it was well to call to mind former days. "I remember," he says, "the days of old."

The future is mostly concealed from us. We cannot lift the curtain which hides it from our sight. Not so with the past. To that we can go back, and find in the review entertainment and profit.

The advantages of the study of history are many and various. It invigorates and enriches the mind; it improves the memory; it gratifies a natural and worthy desire to be acquainted with remote transactions; it enables us to avail ourselves of the experience of our predecessors; it informs and regulates our judgment; and it "is profitable for reproof, for correction," and for strengthening the sentiments of virtue. Indeed, a knowledge of history is not only indispensable to the man of letters, but should be sought by every person who would not be often confounded, and mortified because of his ignorance.

More than half of that Book of Books—the Holy Bible, consists of history, and a familiarity with it is necessary to enable us fully to understand another considerable portion of this precious volume which is denominated prophetic.

The earliest records of humanity are found in the sacred Scriptures, and for this reason, if for no other, they have the first claim on our diligent study. Next to this inspired

\* Reprint from a copy loaned by Deacon George F. Platt.

history, our own town, commonwealth, and country should receive our notice: for important as is an acquaintance with Persian, Grecian, Roman, and European history, a thorough knowledge of American history is to us more valuable.

Six years ago, on an occasion like the present, I gave a brief account—which was subsequently printed by your request, of the First Church in Milford. It was appropriate to commence here, for this Church was coeval with the New Haven colony, and may properly be regarded as the parent of the civil state. I now propose to group together concerning it, and the Town we inhabit, such other particulars not then mentioned, as can be brought within the limits of a single discourse, and which may be considered most deserving of our remembrance.

Standing, after the lapse of nearly two hundred and twenty years, on the spot selected by the first settlers as their abode, what a contrast between the condition of things here then, and this condition now! The same stream indeed is here, pursuing its shining way to Long Island Sound, which rolled then; and the Sound, now, as then, mirrors the heavens in its placid bosom, or breaks its foam-capped waves upon the beach;—but all else how changed! The dark tangled forests have gone; the wild beasts which prowled there for prey are gone likewise; the Indians with their canoes, wigwams, council-fires and terrific war-whoop have also disappeared; and in their place we have fertile fields, smiling gardens, tasteful commodious dwellings, a civilized community, and temples of the living God. Could the primitive inhabitants of our village, “burst their cerements,” come out of their sepulchres, and look upon us today, they would think that we lived on another planet from that which they once resided; and would be quite sure of the fact, when learning that along the electric wire which stretches through the village, messages are flashed with the rapidity of thought; or when they saw the iron horse advancing, breathing from his nostrils, smoke and flame, and heard the long panting trains of cars thundering on with their living freight! But the locality is the same.



Time, culture, and science, alone, have wrought the transformation.

The earliest settlements in Connecticut were formed by people from Massachusetts. These settlements were Windsor,\* Hartford and Wethersfield. After the lapse of two or three years from the time these settlements were made, the sea-coast from Saybrook to Fairfield became known, and a plantation, as it was called, was commenced at Milford. This was in 1639. For the value received from the possession of "six coats, ten blankets, one kettle, twelve hatchets, twelve hoes, two dozen knives, and a dozen small glasses," a tract of land was obtained of the Indians, who confirmed the bargain with much parade. Subsequently, this original tract was enlarged by other purchases, until the limits reached north even as far as to what is now Waterbury. The territory has since been ceded, section after section, to aid in forming the towns of Waterbury, Derby, Woodbridge, and Orange, until it is reduced to its present dimensions,—the figure of which is triangular. The name given to the place by the Indians was Wepawaug; and a majority of the planters were from the English counties of York and Essex. We do gross injustice to these worthies if we say that they crossed the wild Atlantic, and came to these inhospitable shores, tenanted only by the savage and his game, merely to better their temporal fortunes.

A few months after the arrival of Winthrop's company at Plymouth, Governor Dudley wrote home to the Countess of Lincoln. In that letter he says: "If any *godly* men, out of religious ends, will come over to help us in the good work we are about, I think they cannot dispose of themselves nor of their estates more to God's glory, and the furtherance of their own reckoning. For *others*, I conceive they are not yet fitted for this business." Our Fathers were of this sterling Christian

\* The most ancient orthodox Congregational Church in New England is in Windsor of this State. It was formed in the beginning of 1630, in Plymouth, England. The members came to Dorchester, Mass.; and in 1636, a majority of them began the settlement of Windsor.

stamp. They were "godly men." A higher motive than sordid gain moved them to emigrate; a nobler object had their ambition. They left the land of their birth for conscience sake, and for the sake of Christ,—that they might have "freedom to worship God," according to their ideas of what was scriptural, and most edifying, and to extend the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom. They brought with them the blessed Bible, a cordial attachment to it, and to the Sabbath, and Christian ordinances, a firm regard for law and order, and a love for virtue; and their first Pastor,—the Rev. Peter Prudden, was a native of Edgerton, Yorkshire. He, and they, looked to God, for wisdom to project, vigor to execute, and fortitude to endure; sought His favor as the only source of well-being and well-doing, acknowledged their success or failure in things ecclesiastical and civil to be suspended on His will alone; did what they did, according to the pattern revealed to them by intimate communion with Him in prayer, and through the medium of His word, and had faith in His gracious, powerful Providence; for upon their banner was inscribed that sentence indicative of Puritan trust and piety, "He who transplants us, sustains us."

The First Church in Milford was organized before the settlement of the town, for it was organized in New Haven; and "the seven pillars" upon which humanly speaking it rested, they standing upon the only sure foundation, "the Rock of Christ Jesus," were the individuals who, specially delegated for that purpose, followed the devious Indian foot-path through the wilderness, arrived hither, established themselves in this locality, and fashioned in connection with kindred minds their civil polity. The Church, therefore, underlay the government of the town—the civil system, framed it by its counsels, sustained it by its influence, and infused into it some portion of its devotional spirit.

In those times it was deemed expedient for a religious society to have a Teacher, as well as a Pastor. With the Rev. Mr. Prudden therefore, was associated in this capacity, by election, Rev. John Sherman. As comparatively little

notice has been taken of him in the "Church Manual," it is fit, in passing, to bestow upon him a few paragraphs.

The prescribed curriculum of study at Cambridge University, England, he regularly pursued, and would have received the degree of A.B. in course, but for conscientious scruples relative to acceding to the terms of graduation. He formed one band of emigrants who reached America in 1634, and settled in Watertown, Mass. Coming from thence with others to Milford, he was called to be Teacher of the church here. This call he declined; and after remaining for a season in this vicinity, preaching as opportunity offered, "going about doing good," and serving the public as a member of the General Court for the jurisdiction, he returned to Watertown, and declining an invitation from a church in Boston, and two churches in London, became pastor of the church in the place where he had preached his first sermon. As a speaker his elocution was remarkably fine, and he had many of the graces of oratory. He was also fond of mathematics, and astronomy, and was a rare proficient in these branches of science. He supplied the astronomical calculations for the first Christian Almanac published in this country. His second wife was granddaughter of the earl of Rivers: Governor Hopkins was her appointed guardian; and she resided under the roof of Governor Eaton.

The Psalmist says, "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." If this is true, no ordinary measure of enjoyment must have been the portion of Mr. Sherman. Of such arrows his quiver was full; so much so that if on a day like the present, when the lovely spectacle is exhibited of twenty-two entire States, at the call of their Chief Magistrates, assembling in the house of God;—a day when far scattered birds wing again their way to the cherished nests of childhood—when sons and daughters return from their dispersions to the dear old homestead, happy in the society of each other, and in that of their venerated parents,

*his* children were all living, and came back to receive the greetings of a father's and mother's love in Watertown, the number of "olive-plants round about the table" there would have been *twenty-six*.

Of course his descendants are numerous. Not a few of those persons in the land, who bear the name of Sherman, are of the same lineage with him. Such was the case with the noted Roger Sherman, once apprenticed to a shoemaker, who came to this town carrying his tools on his back; and was a member of the first Congress in 1774; continued a member nineteen years; signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776;—was designated by Jefferson, as "a man who never said a foolish thing in his life," and when John Randolph of Virginia in whose veins was Indian blood, cried out, in his shrill piping voice for the purpose of insulting him, that he "should like to know what the gentleman from Connecticut, when he left the cobbler's bench for that Hall, did with his leather apron;" received for answer:—"Sir, I cut it up to make moccasins for the descendants of Pocahontas!"

Before the death of Rev. John Sherman, which occurred in 1685,—he being then in the seventy-second year of his age, there was a man in the commonwealth prominent for his victories over the savage tribes in Springfield, and Hadley, Mass., distinguished for turning the tide of success at a critical moment in that Battle of "Bloody Brook," when the "Flower of Essex bit the dust," as also for his intellectual gifts, weight of influence, and official position. It was Governor ROBERT TREAT. When Sir Edmond Andross, knight, and captain-general, and Governor-general over New England, came, supported by his suite, and more than sixty of the King's troops, to Hartford, during the session of the Assembly, and demanded the charter granted by Charles the Second to the Connecticut colony;—the man who valiantly and ably advocated the resolution not to give up the patent, and privileges obtained at so much cost, and of such value; and the man who was privy to extinguishing the lights, the carrying off of that royal instrument of liberty and secreting it in the large

hollow oak, was this Governor ROBERT TREAT;—a member of the Milford Church, and who married a daughter of one of the “seven pillars,” on which this church laid its foundation work, and was one of the three appointed by the church to impose hands on the second pastor of this church—Rev. Roger Newton, on the occasion of his installation, August 22, 1660.

A word or two in this connection, additional to what has been printed, in relation to the fifth pastor of the church, Rev. Samuel Wales, D.D.

He graduated in 1667, in the class with Gov. John Treadwell, and the not less celebrated Dr. Nathaniel Emmons. He was elected to the Professorship of Divinity in Yale College in 1781. The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity he received from two colleges;—from Yale College, his Alma Mater in 1782, after he was appointed Professor, and from the College of New Jersey in 1784. His figure was short and stout, his voice was heavy, and flexible, was under good management, and his sermons glowed with divine truth earnestly expressed. After being engaged several years in the duties of his professorship, this star of superior brightness and influence in the orb of the Church, was mysteriously wrapped in clouds. He was deprived of his reason, and the College of his valuable services. He died at the age of forty-six, leaving behind him the character of a man of superior talents, an accomplished scholar, and an eminent divine. The discourse at his funeral was by President Stiles. The text was 1 Samuel 25: 1. “And *Samuel* died: and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah.” This text was announced in the original Hebrew, and the discourse was in Latin.

Dr. Wales has a son living, who was a classmate of my father; and has been senator of the United States from Delaware.

Among the things by which this Church has been characterized, are a disposition to be at peace among themselves, and to treat with due consideration and respect their Pastors.



This declaration is confirmed by the fact that since the organization of the Church in 1639, it has had but nine Pastors. This makes the average term of service of each Pastor but a little less than a quarter of a century;—which manifestly could not have been the case, had they been a quarrelsome people. None of these Pastors were driven away. Five were “not allowed to continue by reason of death,” and their ashes sleep by the side of the flock they tended, in sure expectation with them of a joyful resurrection. Of the remaining four, one left on account of his health; two were called away to what they deemed more important fields of service, and the other having occupied the pulpit during the lapse of thirteen years, mingles his congratulations with his people on this day of Thanksgiving and Praise. May they continue to heed the counsel sent to them from the dying lips of one of these men of God:—“Brethren, live in peace, and the God of love and of peace shall be with you:” for it is not only “good for Christians to dwell together in unity,” but likewise “pleasant.” “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even in Aaron’s beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

Leaving now the Church for the TOWN, some further items may be noted.

The first settlers seem to have duly appreciated the value of *Education*. In importance they placed it next to the Christian religion. With growth in grace, they associated growth in knowledge. Hence, near the “Meeting-house”\* was

\* The model of the worship of the Christian Church was obtained from the Jewish Synagogue. The ancient Puritanical word “Meeting-house” is a nearly literal translation of the word Synagogue into Saxon English. And Primitive Congregationalists preferred the word “Meeting-house” to the word “Church,” not, as is said, because of their excessive antipathy to Episcopacy, but because by King James’ translators the word Church was used to denote the assembly of Christian people, whether general or particular.

erected the school-house, and while liberal provision was made for the preaching of the gospel, ample provision was likewise made for the instruction of the young. Not only were there primary schools, but as early as 1655, sixteen years after the settlement of the town, was there established in "the wilderness and solitary place," a Latin school. Records show that the inhabitants spared no pains to discipline and furnish the minds of their children, by engaging teachers of scientific acquirements, and generously remunerating them for their labors. Yale College is as much indebted to Rev. Samuel Andrew of this town, as to any other person, excepting the individual after whom it was named—Elihu Yale, Esq., of New Haven. Mr. Andrew was one of the first projectors of the College,—was the most influential of the ten who obtained a charter for the same from the Legislature,—was one of the original trustees of the Institution,—continued to hold this trust thirty-eight years,—had for a number of years the tuition of the senior class who resided in the town, and was for a time the College Rector. If, as a community, we are now behind some portions of the state in our zeal for learning, if our views on this subject are not as enlarged, and our efforts as well directed and earnest as they ought to be, it is not because of the example of our fathers, but because we have another spirit from that which they manifested.

The first colonists of Milford, also, were not deficient as *friends of popular rights* and as *patriots*. The Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell in England was succeeded by the restoration of monarchy, and Charles II. was placed upon the throne. Soon after he was seated there, several of the Judges by whose sentence the head of his father, Charles I, had been brought to the block, were condemned and executed. Three others, Whalley, Goffe and Dixwell, usually denominated the regicides, came to New England. On their arrival at Boston they were welcomed, and at Cambridge, a neighboring town, they lived for several months unmolested and respected. It however becoming apparent, through intelligence from Parliament, that longer continuance there would be unsafe, they

came to New Haven. Here they were sheltered in the house of Rev. Mr. Davenport; and when the agents of the king came to apprehend them, the people were moved to stand by them through the influence of a discourse publicly preached by Mr. Davenport from Isaiah 16: 3, 4. "Take counsel, execute judgment, make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noon-day; hide the outcasts, bewray not him that wandereth. Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler." A covert was found for them. It was a cave on the top of West Rock, and food was furnished them by a Mr. Robert Sperry who lived in the vicinity. From these rude quarters they subsequently repaired to another refuge called "The Lodge." As, however, the king's agents were on the hunt for them, and as the penalty of the law for harboring traitors was fearful, the question arose where next they could go, with the prospect of finding security. The views and feelings of the people of Milford were well understood. It was well known that they had no sympathy with the despotic policy of Charles I, or respect for his bigoted, tyrannical adviser Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury; that they had a fellow feeling for those who, sufferers from the cruel edicts of the Star Chamber and High Commission Court, had risen upon and subdued their oppressors; and that for the men who had the integrity and the courage to affix their signatures to the death-warrant of a king found guilty of treason against his nation, they had a high regard,—would make for their concealment "a shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday," and would not deliver them to their pursuers. Hence, on the 20th of August, 1661, Whalley and Goffe fled to Milford. And not in vain. They found friends here, and no informants against them, and continued here in the center of the town for several years. The locality of their concealment is still pointed out as a spot of interest, though the building in which they were hidden long since yielded to the ravages of time. It was thirty or forty rods from the place where we are now assembled, and the individual who owned the building and hid the Judges

was Michael Tomkins. President Stiles says: "I have frequently been in this house of Tomkins. It was standing since 1750, and perhaps to 1770. It was a building, say twenty feet square, and two stories; the lower room built with stone wall and considered as a store; the room over it with timber and wood, and used by Tomkins' family as a work or spinning room." He adds: "The family used to spin in the room above, ignorant of the Judges being below. Judge Buckingham tells me this story: 'While they sojourned at Milford, there came over from England a ludicrous cavalier ballad, satirizing Charles' Judges, and Goffe and Whalley among the rest. A spinstress at Milford had learned to sing it, and used sometimes to sing it in the chamber over the Judges; and the Judges used to get Tomkins to set the girls to singing the song for their diversion, being humored and pleased with it, though at their own expense, as they were the subjects of the ridicule. The girls knew nothing of the matter, being ignorant of the innocent device, and little thought that they were serenading angels.'"

Although girls, and boys, and gossips might not have been aware that the Judges were here, the fact was known to Gov. Treat and to Rev. Roger Newton, and to all to whom, well acquainted with their men, they chose to reveal the secret. In a grove back of the house the Judges would often walk when the shades of night prevailed, talk with their guardians of Dunbar and Cromwell, learn the drift of the latest dispatches from Parliament, and the latest intelligence from the profligate court of Charles II; and this silence with reference to them, and support and protection of them, are creditable to all concerned, evincing as it does their fidelity, and resolution, and warm attachment to the sacred principles of liberty.

In the great revolutionary struggle for Independence, this town furnished her "full quota of men and money." Two companies were raised here, under the command of Captains Pond and Peck, who were in several engagements, and whose officers were commended by Washington for their promptness and intrepidity; tories were scarce, and were obliged to keep

concealed, or meet the humiliating fate of McFingal,—a vote was passed Dec. 14, 1778, that “no person or persons, whatever, who have heretofore voluntarily gone over to join with, and screened themselves under the protection of the enemies of the United States of America, or who shall hereafter go over, join with, or screen themselves under said enemy, shall be suffered or allowed to reside or dwell in this town, on any pretense whatever;” and when on the 1st of January, 1777, two hundred American soldiers in a needy, diseased, and perishing condition were cast here from a British cartel ship, they were hospitably received, their wants supplied, and, above forty-six of them, whom physicians and kind nursing could not save, but who died, and were laid in one common tomb, “ashes to ashes, dust to dust,” there now rises a monument reared in part by the liberality of the people of the town, bearing the names of the unfortunate soldiers, and honorable mention of their heroic sacrifices for freedom and their country.

The first *Mill* erected in New Haven colony was in this town; and what is remarkable, it is still the property of an individual of the same name with the original builder; and never since its erection has it been owned by a person of any other name.

Though a majority of the inhabitants of the town, since the settlement thereof, have been farmers, and though at present while we have factories of various kinds, there is here no foreign trade, or ship-building, there was a period when these industrial pursuits received a good share of attention. From a wharf near to the mill above mentioned, cattle were shipped to the West Indies;—an active commerce was carried on with them, and other distant points;—a sloop regularly plied between here and Boston; New Haven people depended upon Milford for some of their groceries; sloops, schooners, and even brigs of one hundred and fifty tons burden, (the exact tonnage of the *Mayflower*) were launched from our dock-yards; and no small portion of commercial enterprise and wealth here flourished.



From Milford, moreover, have gone out many, who have contributed to the settlement of other towns. It is a prolific hive from which swarm after swarm have departed. Besides Newtown, Greenwich, New Milford, and Durham of this State, who are largely indebted to us in this particular; Williamstown, Mass., Newark,\* and Woodbridge, New Jersey; and Talmadge, Ohio, can trace their beginnings to our colonists, of whom they have no occasion to be ashamed, and are not ashamed, and who thus "laid the foundations of many generations"—the foundations of their strength and glory.

But it is time that I close this *Leaf of Milford History*; particularly as I have read from it so much which before may have been known to some of you. A few *reflections* then, from a review of the same, and I have done.

The subject has carried us back to former generations. In remembering as we have, "the days of old," "the years of ancient times," we have remembered the departed. Once they were here, walked these streets, dwelt here, toiled here, had the interests of the church and the town in their charge, had their afflictions and their blessings, their joys, and their sorrows. They then knew nothing about us, for we were not in existence, and what we know of them, we learn from records less perishable than they were. The same azure that now bends over us, swelled over them. The same sun that lights us to-day, gladdened them with its beams. The same moon that now rides in the sky cast upon them her silver rays. The same stars that sparkle over our houses, sparkled over their log cabins. And the acres they subdued, some of the trees they planted, and the springs from which they slaked their thirst, still remain. Their days of Thanksgiving too, and their days of Fasting have descended to us. But they themselves have passed away. Their bodies sleep in yonder ancient graveyard, which is thick sown with the precious seed of the resurrection, and the moss has gathered on their head stones!

We remember those who though they have disappeared from human view, and "rest from their labors," are yet resident

\* Originally called Milford.

elsewhere. Though they have gone from earth, and "the places which once knew them, know them no more," they are not annihilated, nor in a state of dreamy unconsciousness, but are sentient and active in some part of the universe of God.

We remember those who, while they lived here, were probationers for eternity, and now have assigned them a place and state, and possess a character, the exact resultant of their views, feelings, and conduct then. The character imprinted in time, is stereotyped in eternity. If they were righteous then, they are righteous now,—if then they embraced and served Christ, they are now "with Him where He is, beholding His glory;" and if any unjustifiably and foolishly rejected Him, and otherwise abused their probation, they now suffer the consequences of such abuse.

One of the most memorable paintings by eminent artists is that of "The Head of Medusa held up by Perseus." The head is represented as changing into stone every individual who beholds it. A warrior stands looking at it, and he with the javelin in his hand are petrified. An assassin is there with a dagger half hidden under his garment, and he too with his weapon are frozen into stone. Another and another person are portrayed as looking, and each one—just as he is when he catches sight of the head—is stiffened into stone.

There is a moral in this famous picture. That head stands for *Death*. As we are when we meet death, so as moral creatures shall we always be. Death, though it lodges the body in the grave and makes it the food of worms, works no essential change in the soul, any more than the opening of the door of a cage where a bird is confined, alters the nature or the color of the bird. The bird is the same bird while upon the wing as while a prisoner, and the soul is the same soul dismissed from its tabernacle, as when restrained in it. Death stamps upon us an unchangeable, ineffaceable impress. As it finds us, so will the judgment find us, and the ever-during cycles of eternity.

We remember those whose influence lives after them, and by whose sayings and doings we are now affected. The influ-

ence of brave and enterprising minds does not expire with the physical forms in which they acted. In some cases the agencies which they set in motion are more potent after these forms have crumbled into dust, than when they were animated with life. The spirit of Napoleon the Great still rules France. The Order of Loyola is yet vigorous from the energy which he infused into it. The persistent sympathy, and fervent eloquence of Wilberforce, still prompt to manly battling with individual and national wrong; and the name of many a controlling pioneer and leader is an incentive and spur to gallant actions. Indeed, "Thou canst not live for thyself alone," is written upon every human being. All persons have an influence, and this influence dies not with them. It moves on over the grave, and reaches posterity. A very different community should we have been from what we now are, if the first colonists, and their successors, had been addicted to idleness, vulgarity, and intemperance; or had not prized the Bible, scrupulously observed the Sabbath, been devout worshippers of God in His temple, maintained family prayer, and furthered the interests of education. Our churches, our schools, our civil and social condition, our respect for law and order, our opposition to infidelity, profaneness, Sabbath breaking, and rowdyism, are the fruit of their sound principles and virtues; and shame to the individual who amidst the memorials of his worthy sires, and blest with the results of their excellences, is not a friend to industry, sobriety, purity, liberty, and godliness.

Finally, we are reminded that ere the sun runs through many circles of the heavenly signs, we shall be numbered among the departed, and "though dead be yet speaking," and immortal be living elsewhere, and reaping the consequences of our present right, or wrong doing.

Let us remember this, and think, feel and deport ourselves accordingly. If that glow of patriotic ardor is in our breasts which should be there, and which impelled the poet to wish,

"That he for poor auld Scotland's sake,  
Some usefu' plan or book could make,  
Or sing a song at least;"

we shall be constrained while we enjoy, to guard also the heritage of blessings which have come into our possession, and to transmit them in their fullness and richness to those who shall come after us. And if we cherish as we should, the conviction that our everlasting future takes its unalterable complexion from the brief present, we shall endeavor "so to pass through things temporal, that we may not fail of things eternal."

What we honor in our Fathers, *that* let us imitate; and those laudable courses of action which they pursued, and which have brought so much good to us, let us ourselves adopt, for the benefit of succeeding generations. Copying after the Old Puritans, we shall not make any very serious mistakes in sentiment, or go far astray in conduct, and shall build up robust, magnanimous, heroic Christian characters. May their faith be followed, their principles and institutions be cherished, and their self-denying spirit and virtues be manifested by us, our descendants, and the sons of New England,

"Till the waves of the bay where the Mayflower lay,  
Shall foam and freeze no more."







# THE TOWN OF MILFORD DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

PRIZE ESSAY\*

By MABEL WHITMAN MAHONEY

READ AT THE  
GRADUATING EXERCISES OF THE MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
JUNE 17, 1913

"My thoughts go up the long dim path of years,  
Back to the earliest days of Liberty."

Milford, settled in the year 1639, had been steadily growing until, in 1775, it presented a very prosperous appearance. The long, green common, the two libraries, the white Congregational meeting-houses and brown-stone Episcopal Church, the Town-House and the Academy were, many of them, situated much the same as we see them to-day. The people lived simply and contentedly; the women doing the housework and spinning, the men working on their farms or otherwise busying themselves. We are told that ship-building was a leading industry in Milford at this time, and also that many of the men followed the sea. The town meetings brought the men together in a social way, and the housewives gathered at the quilting bees and sewing circles to talk over the neighborhood gossip. Altogether, the town of Milford presented the peaceful appearance of a typical New England village of this period, but the war clouds were gathering.

\*The writer of this essay received a Bronze Medal of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution offered by the Connecticut Society, for the encouragement in public schools of the study of local American History during the "struggle for liberty."

Ten dollars in gold was also offered by George Hare Ford as a special prize for the best essay upon the subject of "Milford during the American Revolution."

The following committee were chosen by the donor to select the best essay:—

Hon. George M. Gunn, Rev. Peter McClean and Mr. Simeon J. Lake.

At the commencement of the Revolution, the inhabitants were unanimously opposed to the oppressive measures of the British. A very enthusiastic town meeting was held on the 29th of November, 1774. The people at this meeting "resolved that they highly approved of and would strictly abide by the Delegates assembled in General Continental Congress." A committee of correspondence of seven persons was also appointed. At this meeting it was "unanimously resolved that a subscription should be forthwith opened for the relief and support of such poor inhabitants of Boston as were immediate sufferers by the Boston Port Bill and a committee of twelve persons was appointed to receive donations and contributions for that purpose. These decisive measures show how intensely patriotic the early Milfordites were.

At a town meeting held May 1, 1775, it was "voted that the great guns be mounted," and the selectmen were appointed a committee to see that this was done. Also the selectmen were to provide powder and everything needful respecting the great guns at the expense of the town, and they were to provide guns, bayonets, and provisions for such as were called forth for the defense of liberty, and were unable to provide for themselves. A minute post was established at the town's expense to be continued for one week under Capt. Isaac Miles, and the next week it was voted to continue this minute post for a longer period. John Fowler, Esq., and Ephraim Strong, Esq., were to "represent the town to the General Assembly and petition for liberty to have a company enlisted and commissioned to be stationed in town for its defense, and at the expense of the Colony." It was also voted to allow some gratuity to those who had formed themselves into a company under the command of John Fowler, Jr., and had spent voluntarily much time in acquainting themselves with the military art.

Capt. Samuel Peck commanded the first Milford company raised for the general defense of the country. A little later, a company was raised under Captain Pond. These com-

panies were in several engagements and the officers were commended by Washington for their promptness and intrepidity. The names of the soldiers are too numerous to mention, but we have sufficient records to show that they did their duty nobly and bravely. One of the men, Capt. Peter Perritt, was taken prisoner at Fort Washington; another story says that when Israel Putnam rode down the dangerous steps at Horse Neck to escape some British soldiers, three men rode with him—one of those being Jehiel Stow, one of the four sons of Stephen Stow.

On Monday, Oct. 9, 1775, Maj. Ennion Williams passed through Milford on his journey to the American Camp at Cambridge. He says in his journal: "We passed through Stratford which is a pretty little town near the river Housatonic. We crossed the Ferry in a large boat built in the manner of our long boats. The Sound here is so wide that the view is bounded by water and sky. We arrived a little after sunset. At Milford, we see by candlelight the inside of a church, a frame building with two stories of galleries, is a large house. There is two other meeting-houses near as large, and are generally filled. The people are generally ready to arm and march whenever ordered to support their liberty. Pursued our way and passed over Oyster River and through West Haven."

Meanwhile, the people of Milford were preparing for the conflict. At a town meeting held Feb. 22, 1776, it was "voted that whereas at a time when our Sea Coasts are threatened with invasion by our enemies, a misuse of Powder may prove very prejudicial not only to the publick in general, but to the Town, therefore resolved that no persons or person whatever, shall by sporting or Fowling fire away any of that necessary article, within the limits of s. Town, upon Penalty of one pound lawful money for every offence." On March 27th, it was voted to accept the grant of the assembly with regard to fortifying the harbor, and a committee was appointed to agree upon a place suitable to erect fortifications upon. Later it was decided to place the battery on West Point, and the money for the fortification was raised by a tax.

For further protection, companies of soldiers were stationed at Burwell's Farm and Poconoc Point. The battery at West Point or Fort Trumbull was situated about where the summer home of Colonel Falls now stands. Many a night the people were awakened by the clanging of the bell of the fort, to call the men of the village to arms, for a ship had been sighted which might prove to be one of the enemies', making ready for an attack.

On December 31, 1776, shortly before night, there appeared off the harbor of Milford a British vessel carrying at her fore-top a flag of truce. Darkness increasing, she was not again seen. Near the beach was the home of Capt. Isaac Miles, an earnest patriot, who with his sons, sitting before his fire, heard unusual noises. Opening his door, he found the yard filled with wild, forlorn looking creatures in a most deplorable condition, suffering for want of food and clothing. On that bitter winter night they had been turned ashore and left to shift for themselves. The sympathies of the Miles family and neighbors sheltered these two-hundred released American prisoners for the night. In a day or two they were removed to the town-hall, which was prepared for them. In this building, which is still standing, the work of Death at once commenced among the unfortunate men, who stricken with fever, were so reduced in strength that they easily fell victims to its virulence. Here it was that the heroic work of Stephen Stow was done. Day and night, his sole occupation was to minister to the sick and dying, and to take increasing, constant care of these men, until, becoming physically exhausted, he contracted the fever and died. His work of kindness and self-sacrifice has justly given him the name of Milford's Martyr.

These soldiers, forty-six in number, were buried in a common grave near the south corner of the graveyard. In 1852, a monument was erected in their memory, "by the joint liberality of the General Assembly, the people of Milford, and other contributing friends." The names of the soldiers are inscribed on the monument, and because of the devotion of Stephen Stow to his country and to humanity, "the Legisla-



ture of Connecticut resolved that his name should be inscribed on this monument."

So the year 1777 brought in sickness and death. The people of Milford were having their share of the miseries of the war, although no real fighting had taken place in their locality. The town meetings chronicle the events in an interesting manner. We find that on February 17th, it was voted that the selectmen be a committee to provide for the soldiers' families. It was also agreed that the town would give ten pounds a head for all those who would enlist for three years or for the war. The number required of the town that year, by the governor's proclamation, was seventy-two.

On the east side of the Wepawaug stands a substantial house painted red. In the time of the Revolution it was owned by Captain Bryan who had been commissioned a first lieutenant in the army, had served in the battle of White Plains and other engagements with the enemy, and who was now on patrol duty in the town. Captain Bryan and Orlando Beach were in charge of the coast to watch for tory raids from Long Island. A British officer on Long Island thought it would be a fine thing to capture Captain Bryan and carry him off to the British ships which lay off the coast. Captain Bryan was prepared for the attack, however, and gave the officer an uncomfortable reception. Without waiting to capture the brave Captain, the officer turned and fled with his men, dropping his sword in his hurry. Captain Bryan kept the sword, and it is now in the possession of Mrs. B. D. Merriman, one of his descendants.

In September, the selectmen were appointed a committee to provide clothing for the Continental Soldiers. In December, it was voted to provide for the soldiers' families, and to recompense the soldiers who had enlisted previous to the town vote, giving ten pounds for an encouragement.

During those stirring times all was not confusion and warfare. Tradition has it that Mistress Frelove Stow, widow of Stephen Stow, had a chest of tea in her cellar. Tea, being a very scarce beverage at this time, was treasured highly by

those who were fortunate enough to possess it and Mistress Stow decided to share her good fortune with the other good housewives of the village. Once a week, at unseasonable hours, the housewives might be seen stealing into Mistress Stow's cellar, where they indulged in a cup of good old English tea.

In January, 1778, "the articles of confederation of the United States, sent by the governor, being read, it was voted by the town that they fully approved of said articles." On the 14th of December, it was voted "that no person or persons whatever who have heretofore voluntarily gone over to join with, and screened themselves under the protection of the enemies of the United States of America, or who shall hereafter go over, join with, or screen themselves under said enemy, shall be suffered or allowed to reside or dwell in this town, on any pretense whatever." Tories were compelled to keep close to their houses. There is a tradition that a certain Milford brook received its name at this time from the people who lived near it, and has ever afterward been called "Tory Brook."

In 1779, the British burned Fairfield. At this time much uneasiness was felt among the people, for the whole western sky glowed a brilliant red for a number of nights, reminding our own villagers that at any hour such a fate might be theirs. Many of the people, especially the women and children, left the town, seeking refuge with relatives or friends away from the coast.

Indeed, Milford might have met the same fate as Fairfield. In a letter written by Sir Henry Clinton to Major-General Tyron, July 2, 1779, these directions are given: "Once in possession of the Black Rock Battery near Bridgeport, at the head of the harbor, all becomes easy and you can always retire by Fair Weather Island, which has deep water on the south side, but not above six-foot within. You may likewise land at Stratford Point, drive the cattle of that district and embark them from thence at your leisure from Charles Island, Milford. You may do the same with those you find at Milford."

But the Milford cattle would not have been very easily found. At Pond Point, there was a meadow sheltered by rising ground and overhanging trees. This place, Calf-Pen meadow, was the resort of Milford cattle. The cattle were driven here, a strong guard placed over the meadow, and safety assured.

In 1779, twenty transport ships lay off against the town for a number of days, occasioning constant alarm, for the people hourly expected an attack. But only a few soldiers landed at Pond Point. A serving maid, seeing the red-coats coming in a small boat, gave the alarm. Consternation reigned, for the men were away. But a plucky young woman, a Mistress Merwin, seized her copper kettle and rolling pin, took her baby, and drove with great haste to Milford center. As soon as she reached the first house she gave the alarm by beating upon the kettle with the rolling pin. So all through the principal streets she rode, giving her unique alarm. By the time relief could be summoned, the few British soldiers had left. One house was plundered, that of Mr. Miles Merwin.

In July, 1780, more money was offered by the town to those who would enlist. War taxes were levied, "payable in money or provisions, to be put up for the use of the state." In October, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered, and the war was ended.

In all accounts we find these eloquent words: "Milford furnished her full quota of men and money." There were no attacks made, no battles fought here. All her patriots received their wounds on the battle fields, yet the men who stayed at home to guard the town were just as patriotic and served their country just as truly as did those who won distinction under great generals. The story of "The Town of Milford During the American Revolution," is simply an account of the daily fulfillment of duties which may seem insignificant when contrasted with the deeds on the battle fields; yet let us remember that just such towns as Milford made brave armies possible; they furnished the money and men.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS DELIVERED UPON THE  
UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN  
AT MILFORD AUGUST 27, 1910

By GEORGE HARE FORD

*Officers and Members of the Village Improvement Association,  
Selectmen and Officers of the Town of Milford,  
Citizens, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

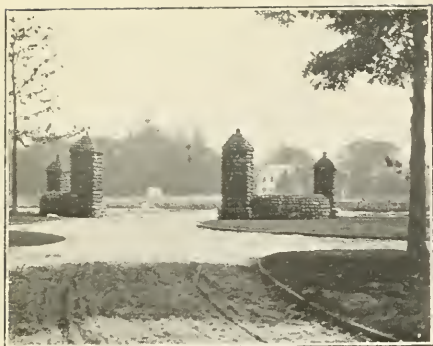
I presume I may be permitted to indulge in a few words of personal explanation. Some time ago I received a circular letter announcing the organization of your Village Improvement Association, and inviting me to become interested as a member and contributor. Having for some time been impressed with the thought of furnishing the town with a memorial fountain for its beautiful green, and of providing for its erection, it occurred to me that if an organized effort was being made for improving and beautifying the town, why not assist in this way *now* instead of later.

The idea resulted in correspondence with your secretary, and met with the approval of the Village Improvement Association and the authorities of the town, and was endorsed by the people at a town meeting. And let me say that to the energetic officers and loyal members of your Village Improvement Association, high credit and honor are due for the interest they have created in town improvements, and the benefits they have effected by their efficient work, with the coöperation of your town officials, and they well merit the thanks of all.

And now let me add that few American towns, if any, are as rich in history and memorials as this beautiful old town of Milford. Represented first by your stone bridge, the most unique historical memorial of its character in the country, I cannot pass here without referring to that dear old citizen, the late Nathan G. Pond, the moving spirit who conceived the idea of this memorial, and did so much with your assistance







Entrance to Wilcox Park



Chapter House, Daughters of the American Revolution



Soldiers' Monument, Civil War, 1861-5



Revolutionary  
Soldiers' Monument



Ford Memorial Fountain

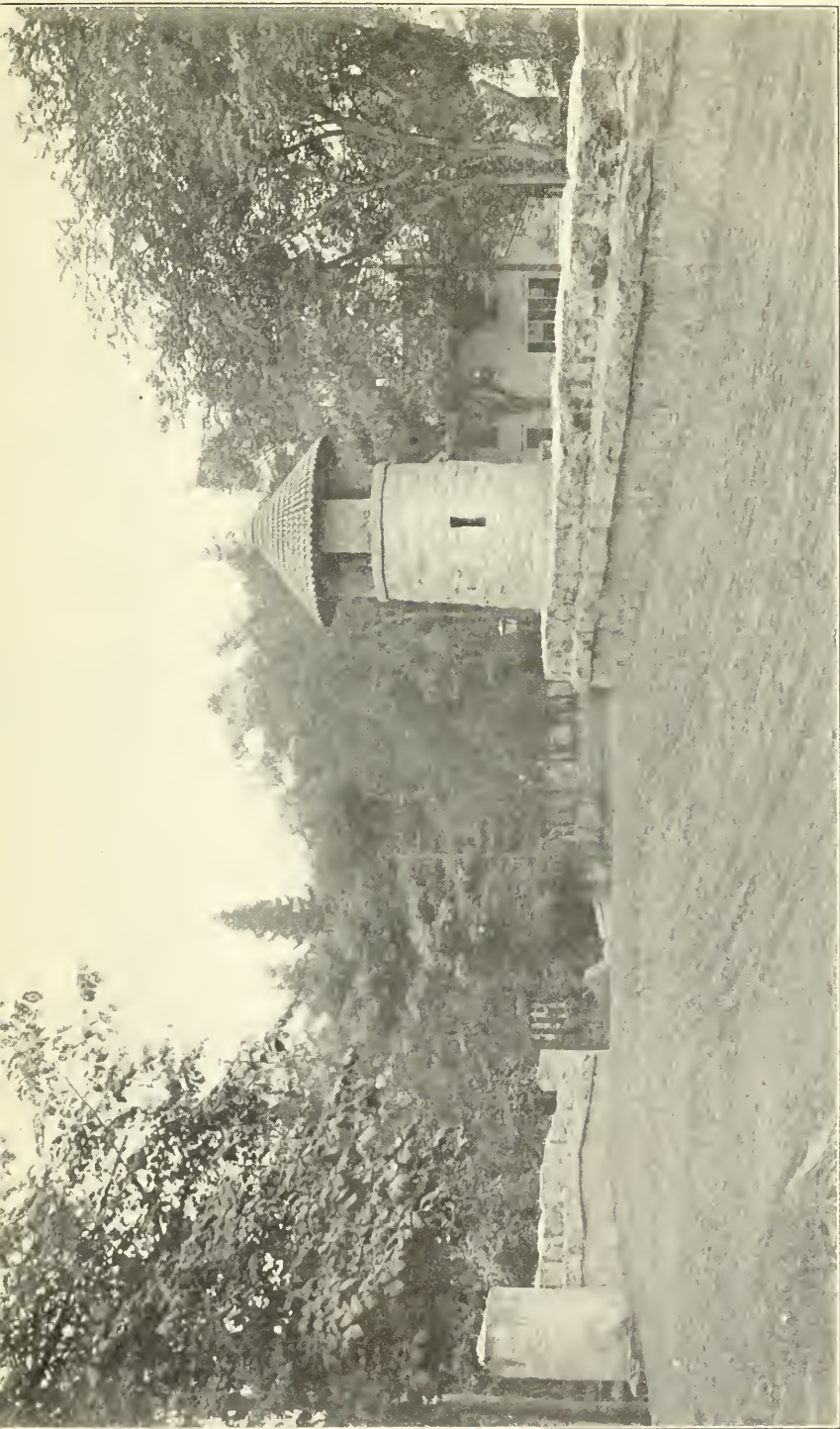


Taylor Memorial Library



Mary Taylor Methodist Episcopal Church

MILFORD MEMORIALS



1639 MEMORIAL BRIDGE 1889

Erected in honor of the founders of the town on the 250th anniversary of its settlement. It is built of stone over the river upon whose banks the first habitations were placed and near the spot where the first mill in the colony was erected. It contains about 40 memorial blocks placed at intervals; each block dedicated to and engraved with the name of the founder, his wife and other data concerning them.

Imbedded in the artistic tower is a large tablet in memoriam to Robert Treat. Another to Jonathan Law. "This stone once his doorstep." On the seat north of the buttress, Mr. William Fowler "the founder of the first mill in the colony in 1639 wherein he used this stone." On the blocks in the buttress are cut "Law Order Morality Liberty Charity."

On the keystone of the arch is carved the head of an Indian Chief (Ansantawae) and his mark, a bow and arrow; the gift of Ansantawae Lodge F. & A. M. No. 80.





towards erecting this artistic structure in memory of the founders of the town. Many of you will recall his lovable character, his unselfish interest in the town and its people, and his study of and wonderful familiarity with old New England ancestry.

Then we have here also the Taylor Memorial Library, the gift of the generous and esteemed citizen, the late Henry A. Taylor; the church at yonder corner, a gift of his children, as a memorial to their mother; and Wilcox park, a gift to the town, from your liberal fellow townsman, Clark Wilcox.

The Chapter House of the Daughters of the American Revolution made possible by the generous contribution of Mary Hepburn Smith.

Nearly three centuries have passed since our ancestors selected this location for their future home. On an occasion like this, mid the mad whirl of this twentieth century of steam, electricity, motor cars, and air ships, it may not be inappropriate or uninteresting to pause for a moment and reflect "whence came all this" and who made it possible, and in doing so to recall some of the men and incidents associated with the event, and the founders of the old New England towns.

This thought will readily take your mental vision across the ocean to England, and impress you with the valor and courage of those two thousand Puritans, who between 1620 and 1639, following their convictions, left their homes confident of enlarging their liberties and their fortunes in the new world. And well may Americans of the present day, scattered the country over, be eager and proud as they are, to trace their ancestry back to the early settlers of New England.

The Plymouth people had established their settlement. Then came the Massachusetts Bay Colony, under Winthrop, a company of distinguished men of wealth, well organized in the other country for the purpose of commercial pursuits, and protected by a liberal patent granted under the great seal of England by Charles I, and they were engaged in the founding of prosperous towns adjacent to Boston.

Captivated by the meadow lands, the natural scenery, the water facilities and the commanding ridges, settlements soon began in Connecticut. Windsor 1633, Wethersfield and Saybrook 1635, Hartford 1636, New Haven 1638. The year 1639 seems to have been a propitious year for the founding of new towns. From eight to ten families located at Fairfield, ten at Stratford, forty at Guilford and fifty-four heads of families (estimated by Lambert as containing 200 people), located on the banks of the "Wepowage," a name which translated from the Indian implies "the crossing, or place of the narrow pass."

Most of these founders came from the counties of Essex, Hereford and York. Many came with the Davenport-Eaton company and first appeared in New Haven. Peter Prudden had preached to them in the old country and at Wethersfield, and after his arrival here a number from that place followed him to the new settlement. It is said they were more liberal in their views than the New Haven colony, hence they declined to participate in the New Haven caucus at the Newman barn when the famous "plantation covenant" was adopted by that company.

We will now picture them under the leadership of Capt. Thomas Tibbals (a direct ancestor on my maternal side). He had served under Commander John Mason in the Pequot War, and had traversed the country between Mystic and Fairfield, and being impressed with the advantages of this situation, he was commissioned to lead the new colony through the wilderness to this selected spot. They followed the Indian path along the shore on horseback and on foot, with their families, cattle, household goods, and materials for house building.

The first settlers located on each side of Mill River and West End Brook—undoubtedly for the convenience of water for themselves and their cattle. The house lots each contained three acres, some double lots. Each planter was to erect a good house within three years or the plot was to revert back to the town. The purchase of the land was transacted with



all the formality of a business proposition. According to the Indian method, the twig and the turf were forms and symbols of the transfer of property. The consideration was rather small, like a few coats and blankets, a kettle, some hoes and hatchets, a mirror, and trinkets, and the chiefs and their families were guaranteed protection by the English.

Their first vote was that they should "guide themselves in all their doings by the word of God till such time as laws should be enacted and established."

On November 20th, 1639, at the town's first general meeting, it was voted that the town seal should be the letters MF joined together, and surrounded by a shield as appears upon the invitation and the program of to-day, this being a facsimile of the seal as illustrated in Lambert's History. By a



singular coincidence it might be construed on this occasion to apply to the initial letters of the memorial fountain. If this seal is not now in use as a town seal, would it not be well, if not inconsistent with any existing condition, for the proper authorities to revive its use and design, and associate with it a suitable motto and the date 1639.

At a General Court, 1640, with common consent the plantation was named Milford, although the letters of the town seal indicate that the name had been chosen at an earlier date, and this formal action was taken for the purpose of legalizing it.

Some authorities say the town was named after an English town, and others that it had reference to the mill by the ford.

The first purchase of land was on the 12th of February, 1639, or February 23rd, present calendar, although the settlement was not made until the summer following.

Somewhat interesting are the names that appear to indicate localities within the boundaries of the town, such as East Field, West Field, Bladdin's Brook, Snake Hill, Lebanon Brook, Peconis Point, Mill Neck, Bear Neck, Dreadful Swamp, Beaver River, Fresh Meadows, Essex Plain, Round Meadow, Calf Meadow, Oyster River, New Meadow, Swamp Meadow and Beaver Pond Meadow, New Field, Indian Neck, Wolf Harbor, Oyster Neck, and Ferry Lands, Plain Fields, Oronoque, Stubby Plain and Turkey Hill.

Broad Street was laid out forty rods wide. It is said the first houses built on the south side were probably set on the Common, and the fences were placed in front, Lambert says. Encroachment of two rods have been made on the north side of the street. The land between the lower half of Broad Street and the harbor was a parade ground. Additions to the original purchase were made from time to time, until the town extended twenty miles north as far as Waterbury, with the Housatonic and Naugatuck rivers as a boundary on the west, Long Island Sound on the south, and the New Haven line on the east. As a parent town Milford has contributed from her estate land occupied by the towns of Naugatuck, Seymour, Derby, Woodbridge, Bethany and Orange. Early settlers acquired lands in other localities and some bought sections in what is now the town of Huntington, L. I., and settled that town. The towns of New Milford, Farmington, Saugatuck (Stamford), Naugatuck, Wallingford, Cheshire, Southington, Ridgefield, Greenwich, Woodbury and Washington, Williamstown, Mass., and Talmadge, Ohio, were all settled by people from Milford. And most important of all, the settlement on the banks of the Passaic River in New Jersey, where now stands the flourishing city of Newark, was begun by people from Milford and Branford.

That justice might be done in buying and selling to each other, a fine of five shillings was established for use of a measure if it were not legally sealed by Jasper Gunn.

Trade and commerce received immediate attention. The enterprising Fowler mill was established and it was soon fol-

lowed by other mills until Milford became distinguished as a mill town.

In 1650 a public wharf was built, and a coasting trade with Boston was established, in the carrying of furs and produce to Boston, and the bringing back of household necessities.

It is said that the credit of Ensign Alexander Bryan, Milford's leading shipping merchant of those days, was so great in Boston that his notes passed as current as bank bills.

In 1675 we find that there were three merchants owning brigs and sloops with a trade to the West Indies, in taking horses, beef, pork, corn, meal, and bringing back rum and molasses. In 1730 ships were sent to Bordeaux, France. At one time ships were built on the banks of the harbor and on the Housatonic river at Wheeler's Farm and were sold in New York. Moreover, Lambert's History says that the people were so enterprising that if the "Devil" should come to Milford in the shape of a lamb, they would skin him for his saddle.

A militia company was organized in 1640. The late John W. Fowler, of honored memory, in his history of Milford Grenadiers (which was one of the most celebrated organizations in New England) refers to the following Milford men who had served as brigade and regimental commanders, and were held in "high esteem for their superiority in efficiency and attainments": Col. Daniel Sackett, Col. Benjamin Bull, Col. William Fenn, Col. Stephen B. Ford, Col. Andrew Beard, Col. William Platt, Col. Abel R. Hine, Col. Isaac T. Rogers.

The town has furnished some of the most eminent men of the state and country, included among whom were three resident governors, Robert Treat, Jonathan Law and Charles Hobby Pond. Gov. Thomas Fitch, Gov. Gideon Tomlinson, Gov. Roger S. Baldwin, and Gov. Charles R. Ingersoll were descendants of Milford founders. Three presidents of Yale University were identified with the town, Pierson, Andrews and Cutler. Col. Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, and Gen. David Wooster came from Milford stock, while their

sons and daughters early married into ancient families of prominence, like the Piersons, Mathers and others. The ancestors of three of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were from Milford, Roger Sherman, of Connecticut, Abraham Clark of New Jersey, and Robert Treat Paine of Massachusetts.

Mindful of all these as citizens of this prominent old New England town, we may each of us exclaim, in the words of Paul of Tarsus: "I am a citizen of no mean city."

We do well then, to recall the events of past centuries, and re-write them on the pages of history. Organize your Village Improvement societies, your uplift clubs. Make your church, your organizations, your village and town the best and worthy of the highest aims, keep in touch with your native town, continue to create an interest in old New England. Keep alive the old traditions. Tell them to your children, and reiterate them to your children's children. Keep the fires burning on the old hearthstones, maintaining the high standards established by your forefathers.

"Though many and many a year has fled  
Since they were gathered among the dead;  
And now their names, with the moss o'er-grown  
Are veiled from sight on the churchyard stone  
That leans away, in a lingering fall,  
And owns the power that shall level all."

And now we come to the special occasion of this gathering on this spot to-day. The importance of fountains of water for the use of man and beast was recognized soon after the creation. Exodus tells us that the children of Israel murmured against their leaders for want of bread and water, and Moses in his perplexity appealed to the great Jehovah, and "bread was rained down from Heaven," and Moses was commanded to gather the assembly together, and "before their eyes the Rock was turned into a fountain of water," and the congregation and their children and beasts did drink, and Moses built an altar there for a memorial.

The French have distinguished themselves by their magnificent fountains in Paris and Versailles. England has done likewise at Chatsworth, and the Crystal Palace. In fact, the capitols of modern Europe abound in fountains that are works of art, and their utility has never been lost sight of.

In Rome opposite the palace of the Quirinal in the open plaza stands the world renowned fountain of Monte Cavallo. At the base are colossal statues of Castor and Pollux who are represented as reining their horses. Above stands a red granite obelisk over one hundred feet in height brought from Egypt by Claudius as a present to Nero. The original fountain was erected by Tiberius in Christ's time.

Tradition says that there came to Rome two young men who were philosophers. The Emperor observed their wisdom, and kept them near his palace. One day they promised that whatever the Emperor should think of by day or night, they would tell him his thought the following day, and he in reply promised that if they succeeded he would give them anything they desired. The next day they were able to tell the Emperor of what he thought out during the night. They asked not for money, only a memorial. He therefore erected to them the grand memorial—the fountain of Monte Cavallo.

So down the ages fountains have been considered of the greatest importance, and have served as public monuments. In Assyria were erected statues of Neptune and dolphins from which were spouts of water. Among the Greeks fountains were common in the cities and it is said as springs were plentiful, little engineering skill was required. These fountains were dedicated to the gods and goddesses, nymphs and heroes, and were frequently placed on the sides of their temples, with a grand façade. The excavation of Pompeii revealed most interesting forms of public and private fountains, with which the city was well supplied.

The aqueducts of the Romans are instances of the importance in which they regarded the fountains of their city, and at the time of Constantine there were in Rome more than twelve hundred public fountains, many of monumental char-



acter, rich in works of art. Agrippa decorated those existing at this time with three hundred bronze and marble statues, and four hundred columns. They were erected to commemorate victories, and were adorned with the trophies secured.

Of this Marion Crawford writes :

“Standing upon the spot, I beheld these statues towering gigantically above the pigmies of the present day, looking like Titans in the act of threatening the Heavens, while overhead the stars were looking out, and might have been taken for guardian angels keeping a watch over the temples below. Behind and on the left were palaces and on the right were gardens and hills still with the orange tint of sunset over them, and in the distance were visible the seven hills on which is built Rome, the Eternal City.”

In conclusion permit me to add: May this modest contribution to one's native town inspire others to contribute from time to time some memorial that will commemorate the deeds and names of those who have given to this community much prestige, and whose memory deserves to be perpetuated.

#### ROBERT TREAT

And right here I want to make an earnest plea to you members of the Village Improvement Society, to organize an effort to secure a suitable memorial for that great public man and founder, Robert Treat, who was the first commander of the regiment, in continuous existence ever since his day, now known as the Second Regiment Connecticut National Guard. He won great distinction while leading the Connecticut troops in the King Philip War, assisted by Maj. John Baird, and Capt. Benjamin Fenn, two founders of this town. From 1683 to 1708, a period of thirty years, Robert Treat was governor and lieutenant governor of the colony. He was an educated farmer, a military commander, a statesman, and a diplomat, for years by far the foremost man in the commonwealth, and undoubtedly the most distinguished man with the most distinguished career of any citizen the town has produced from its foundation to the present day.

In the list of passengers on the *Mary and John*, in 1630, appears the name of Thomas Ford. Trumbull, in his history of Dorchester, page 17, refers to him as a gentleman past middle life, with adult family and good estate. This Thomas Ford settled in Windsor in 1633. He was a Deputy to the First General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, under the first Governor, John Haynes. Thomas, Jr., one of the founders of this town, came here as a young man, and married Elizabeth Knowles, daughter of Alexander Knowles of Fairfield, Conn., who was assistant to Governor John Winthrop in 1658.

To the memory of this Thomas Ford, who died in 1662, and to his children, Elizabeth, John, Thomas, Mary and Lydia, and his descendants who to-day bear the name of Ford, and also among whom we find the name of Treat, Trowbridge, Gunn, Fowler, Clark, Baird, Buckingham, Fenn, Smith, Fitch, Mallory, Hawley, Rogers, Northrup, Gilbert, Canfield, Baldwin, Sanford, Sherwood, Andrew and Prudden, many of whom have continuously lived in this community, this fountain is erected.

To you, Mr. President, and to these descendants, and to all the people of this goodly town is committed its future care with this line by the late Robert Treat Paine:

"While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls its waves."

## Inscription on Fountain :

TO THOMAS FORD, ONE OF YE FOUNDERS OF THIS TOWN, AND TO  
HIS DESCENDANTS THIS FOUNTAIN IS ERECTED BY GEORGE HARE FORD.

The base is constructed from field stones collected from the farm occupied by the Fords  
continuously since the settlement of the town.

The lantern is modeled from the Paul Revere lantern.

## COMPOSED FOR THE OCCASION.

We stand upon this sacred spot  
Where, many years ago,  
Our ancestors were gathered:  
They came by a trail below

And so they made for our delight  
This lovely, peaceful town.  
All honor to the energy  
Of these men of renown.

With their wives and all their families  
To make this place their home,  
That no more through the wilderness,  
Unsettled, they should roam.

We've erected to their memory  
Memorials choice and rare—  
The library, the fine old bridge  
Receive our loving care.

The little stream that purled along  
Attracted these brave men,  
So by the ford they settled,  
No more to wander then.

A park, a church, too, have been given  
And other gifts between—  
To-day we have a fountain,  
Erected on the green.

At once began their homes to build,  
Felled pine and elm and oak:  
Enthusiasm and love they put  
In every single stroke.

In memory of the Fords of old,  
First settlers of the town,  
That to future generations  
Their old name may go down.

And now all down the ages ring  
The memories of their works;  
Each toiled with pride and honor—  
Those times *did not* make shirks.

This fountain's placed 'neath rare old trees  
That make for the eyes a feast.  
Through the centuries the water clear  
Will flow for man and beast.

*M. Graves Watson (Ford)*



# ROBERT TREAT

FOUNDER, FARMER, SOLDIER, STATESMAN  
GOVERNOR

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PAPER READ BEFORE THE  
NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY  
GENERAL GEORGE HARE FORD

APRIL 17th, 1911

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(Reprint from Vol. VIII, New Haven Colony Historical Society  
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*(This pamphlet may be obtained of the author, price, 50c.)*

















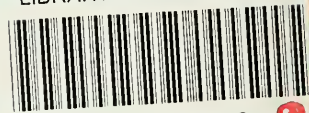
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